■ THIS ODD WORLD

A solid gold Rolls Royce — well almost!

Hermann Windeck, junior boss of a haulage company in Düsseldorf, does not understand the world anymore. Hadn't he done everything possible with his money and imagination to place another jewel in the crown of the North Rhine-Westphalian capital, which so likes to present itself as a true metropolis with all the trimmings?

Windeck came to the conclusion that the time had come for Düsseldorf's brides and bridegrooms to be driven to the church or to the registry office not in any of the fancy cars the Continent has to offer but in a "car of real elegance." The only model that came up to Windeck's standards of elegance naturally was a Rolls Royce.

Accordingly, Hermann Windeck set off for the home of these cars and, true enough, found a splendid 39-year-old model that belonged to a titled gentleman. He was deterred from buying neither by the respectable age of the car nor by the price, 60,000 Marks. All he had in mind was how wonderful a young couple would look in it, on its way to exchange nuptial vows.

One thing bothered Windeck, however. What, after all, is a Rolls Royce in a city that is teeming with millionaires? A man of infallible taste, he soon came up with a solution.

The "best experts" were called in to paint the vehicle a virginal white. Disregarding the expence, the seats were draped with the finest material and the very best leather.

Stereophonic radio was installed. "We are thinking of something like Handel's *Largo*," said Windeck. Not forgetting, of course, the obligatory champagne bar. "The price of the bubbly is inclusive, so it is hardly noticed."

Nevertheless, there was still something missing. Along with every Westerner with a deep respect for tradition, Hermann Windeck knew that the Higher Life in terms of luxury does not consist of mere technical gadgets. Unalloyed happiness requires real, lasting, unalloyed gold.

And it came to pass. The mudguards of the bridal limousine are of pure gold leaf. "Guaranteed 24 carat. I bet that takes your breath away," Hermann Windeck said.

The price a lucky couple must pay for the honour of riding in this dream car is not revealed. What is obvious is that the dream world in which Windeck would have his brides and grooms travel the first mile of their married life (afterwards to be assisted perhaps in moving their furniture by his red vans) no longer exists.

This peddler of romanticism is feuding with the television companies. He now regrets what he first tried to launch by aggressive means – nation-wide publicity on the television screen.

The Cologne-based Westdeutsches Fernsehen team arrived to report on the gold-leaf marvel. Windeck had prepared a three page manuscript "containing everything that needs to be known about the car and our intentions."

The men from the Rhine were less impressed, however. They thought the whole business rather ridiculous and pretentious.

"Unbelievable," said Windeck. "And the shots weren't good either." Whereupon he turned to the Second Programme people in Mainz inviting the for their views. He shouldn't have. The Mainz people really went to town on the venture

Again Windeck proferred his eloquent manuscript, inviting his critics to publish from it what they pleased. A bride and groom were quickly recruited from [the] office to complete the picture.

The Mainzers' response was an iro[nic] reportage on this dealer in sentiment. "The undersigned and his business colleagues are by no means pleased with the text of your report," Windeck wrote wrathfully.

The last sentence was "ironic to the extreme," he complained. The commentator remarked that even in the age of the Pill and the atomic bomb, of space travel and mass slaughter, people still spend their money on "trashy illusions."

This was too big a pill to swallow. Hermann Windeck announced that he was going "to place the matter immediately in the hands of my lawyers." Angrily, he demanded of a journalist who accompanied the team from Mainz, "Are you really aware of what you have destroyed?"

(DIE ZEIT, 9 May 1969)

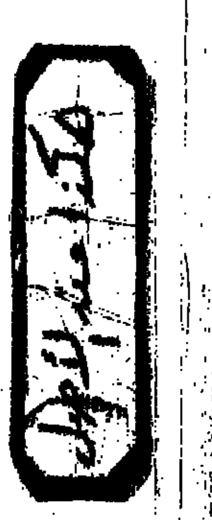
The not so affluent society

A quarter of the people in this country live from hand to mouth, according to the Institute for Social Research (INFAS). As many as 25 per cent of the people questioned admitted that they encountered difficulties if there were any delay in paying salaries, wages or pensions.

Two-thirds of those questioned admitted that they were not absolutely punctual when it came to making payments. Ten per cent refused to answer such questions.

One result of the survey was that working families were the most pressed for ready cash, whilst people who are self-employed were least likely to fall into financial difficulties.

Important factors in managing family budgets were the net family income, the size of the family and the standard of living the family aspired to. About two thirds of the people in this country do try to put a little money by for unforeseen emergencies. The survey showed however that almost a quarter made no allowance for expenses that might occur and cause embarrassment. (Handelsblatt, 23 April 1969)



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 3 June 1969
Eighth Year - No. 373 - By Air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C

Kiesinger in Tokyo visit avoids misinterpretation



Federal Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger with his wife at a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto (Photo: dpa)

Not until their last meeting, a social encounter, did Chancellor Kiesinger and Japanese Premier Eisaku Sato have the opportunity of discussing in private what used to be called the Tokyo-Berlin axis.

Mentioning of his own accord the history of and the events leading up to the Second World War Premier Sato concluded by noting that "We have learnt from past grave mistakes."

Chancellor Kiesinger's observations can be reduced to the remark that "past alliances between our two countries for mistaken military purposes should not stop us now from jointly pursuing a policy of peace."

This shortened account of the exchange of views makes clear the changes that have taken place in political background since the late Chancellor Adenauer's state visit to Japan in 1960.

Twenty-four years after the total defeat the leaders of both countries had rushed them headlong into, both have become industrial giants, well aware of the second-rate role the play behind Washington, Moscow and Peking, still have to pay attention to more than their immediate national concerns and even keep an eye on more than their neighbouring regions.

In both cases the compulsion to do so is not the result of political and military ambitions but derives from the realisation that each's high-export industries can only be kept at full blast, the only guarantee of further growth, provided they can rely on more or less stable markets.

Despite the points Japan and this country have in common it transpired that differences do exist, and not only because Japan is more interested in Europe than this country is in Asia.

Premier Sato was most anxious to increase cooperation, while Chancellor Kiesinger admitted that the consultation agreed between the two countries had not been taken seriously but despite his promise to do better in future took the greatest care to avoid creating the impression that the former alliance between the two powers might again be in the making.

As a result the exchange of views on joint efforts to stabilise the situation in South-East Asia progressed no further than agreement in principle, as Chancellor Kiesinger put it.

Even on such political issues as the non-proliferation treaty, on which the basic position and interests of both countries are virtually the same, agreements were not reached, still less – to use Dr Kiesinger's phrase, borrowed from Economic Affairs Minister Schiller – any decision on concerted action.

This underlined on the one hand the Chancellor's determination not to create more trouble for himself at home as a result of his confidential talk with Mr Sato and his public statements in Tokyo. He certainly gave the impression of thinking more about the coalition and the election campaign.

On the other hand, the Chancellor made it clear that he had no anti-American feelings. He took scrupulous care to avoid the slightest impression that this might be the case. He also made sure that there could be no question of suspecting that a conspiracy was being hatched against the non-proliferation treaty.

For all these reasons it was no coincidence that both in Tokyo and in Bonn Chancellor Kiesinger added by way of an afterthought to every announcement of closer and more cordial cooperation that this applied to all sectors in which cooperation appeared appropriate and in which interests coincided.

A fair amount of parallelism in interests by no means implies that overall interests are identical, particularly as the common strength of the two countries and their industrial capacity is bound to make them competitors more often than not.

The geographical situation also has an effect. While both Japan and this country are allied to the United States rather than the Soviet Union or China their attitudes towards the two communist superpowers differ.

Thirty years ago the military men who were in power in Japan and Germany reckoned that these geopolitical differences would work out to the advantage of their respective imperialist policies. Now that the world has grown so much smaller due to technological means of communication it is evident that genuine cooperation is possible only in some sectors.

Soviet propaganda could have saved itself the trouble of casting aspersions on the occasion of Chancellor Kiesinger's visit to Tokyo. There is to be no renewal of the Tokyo-Berlin axis, at least not in the old sense. Which does not mean to say that the Chancellor's visit brought no benefits.

Hans Reiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 May 1969)

IN THIS ISSUE

Disarmament conference

It came as something of a surprise, and by no means an unpleasant one, to see the chief delegate of an Eastern Bloc country at the Geneva disarmament conference express the widespread dissatisfaction over the attitude of the nuclear powers.

The Rumanian spokesman implicitly attacked the Soviet Union, too. He was disappointed by Moscow's disarmament performance and called on the Kremlin too no longer to evade the problem.

There can be no doubt that the nuclear, or non-nuclear, agreements so far reached are by no means enough to safeguard world peace, but the mistake of considering nuclear disarmament to have priority should not be made.

The Rumanian delegate in Geneva has less reason than most for attributing major importance to the problem of nuclear weapons. He ought to know from experience how much the security of a country can be endangered by conventional troops.

Non-nuclear Rumania will always be less than a match for its highly nuclearised neighbour to the north, yet it is not the Kremlin's nuclear arsenal that Rumania needs to fear but its infantry and armoured units.

The Czechoslovaks have learnt the lesson even more at first hand. The demand made by the Czech delegate at Geneva for a ban on the use of nuclear weapons did not in the circumstances sound very convincing.

Everywhere in the world where fighting is taking place, soldiers are dying, civilians being killed and country being laid waste conventional weapons do the damage.

Even the fear of nuclear death has lessened (logically enough) while anxiety about an invasion by foreign troops has increased – not only in countries adjoining the Soviet Union but also among neighbours of Red China.

The wish for an end to nuclear weaponry, an unfulfillable one if ever there was one, and the old demand for nuclear-free zones, which might well provoke conventional aggression rather than prevent a nuclear holocaust, must not be allowed to distract from this anxiety.

Nuclear armaments cost enormous sums of money, as countries everywhere, not least America and the Soviet Union, are noting with increasing bitterness. So hope remains that a limitation of this expenditure might be agreed by Washington and Moscow, both of whom appear to be prepared to move step by step.

The nuclear balance must be maintained in the process. It cannot be gainsaid that this balance of power has exercised a stabilising effect that has benefited world peace.

Care must be observed if dangerous displacements in power are to be avoided. Justified impatience should be equally directed at conventional arms. They too cost money, effort and sacrifices. And they are no less dangerous than the Bomb, which a great power can use only at its peril.

Friedrich Herzog

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 May 1969)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Gomulka approaches Bonn with reconciliation proposals

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Not long ago Warsaw condemned Bonn's new policy towards the Eastern Bloc out of hand. The Polish leadership saw the new approach not as the expression of a desire for better relations but as a Macchiavellian intrigue designed to drive a wedge between the Soviet Union and its European allies and weaken the socialist camp.

Yet even though this country is genuinely anxious to establish more cordial relations with its neighbours to the east and the Polish leadership is evidently suffering from a distorted view of the situation Poland's comments on the Federal Republic's policy towards the East are not merely the result of communist agitation.

Like all Western bridge-building policies this country's policy of detente is aimed at nationalist, liberal and Social Democratic tendencies in the people's democracies. Accusations levelled at the United States and this country by Poland and other communist countries to the effect that the West's ambition is to turn the socialist countries inside out from within are not without a grain of truth. of truth.

This is what change by rapprochement amounts to, basically, except that — —especially since the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia — the West plans to remain a benevolent spectator. It is all the more surprising that Polish party leader Gomulka has now adopted a relatively objective stand towards this country.

What is Gomulka hoping for? Does he need yet more "proof" of this country's revanchist policies? Or is he tipping off advocates of the new Eastern policy shortly before the general election in this country that he agrees in principle to talks, so lending them a little election assistance?

It is more than probable that Gomulka will do them more harm than good. Twenty-four years after the end of the war there are still enough people in this country who would cry wolf at the merest mention of recognition of the Oder-Neisse line as Poland's western frontier.

And although it is hard to see why renunciation of areas that form part of neither of the two German states and will never do so, both friend and foe are determined, is detrimental to this country's interests this is a viewpoint that is always voiced in tones of profoundest conviction.

One cannot but strongly suspect that a number of these Cassandras identify German interests with those of the expellee organisations. Willy Brandt's cautious, negative reply to First Secretary Gomulka is certainly an indication that even now no politician can afford to offend these people and their supporters.

It many be legally correct and understandable in terms of domestic politics on such a tricky subject emotion-laden on both the Polish and the German sides to think in terms of a future, final peace treaty but from the foreign policy viewpoint it is a luxury pure and simple.

Not that formal recognition of the Oder-Neisse line would bring much in the way of immediate benefits, but the other side would at least be deprived of a propaganda weapon that it has used with success even in the West. It would also be clear that the motive force of Bonn's Eastern policy is not a desire to bring about changes in the European status quo but the wish to come to an understanding. Bonn has long since had to abandon its dream of exchanging recognition of the Oder-Neisse line for fundamental concessions.

On the other hand hopes placed in Poland by Western politicians have also proved unfounded. Only the legend of the liberal innovator Gomulka, taking arms against the powerful ally to the east, remains. Nowhere in Poland does anyone appear to want to exchange dependence on the Soviet Union for anything else.

When, during his visit to Poland, General de Gaulle advocated an end to military blocs in Europe and conjured the spirit of nationalism First Secretary Gomulka's reply, which is still valid today, was to the effect that the alliance with the Soviet Union is the result of painful historical experience and will remain the cornerstone of Polish policy.

It can thus be assumed with some degree of certainty that Gomulka's attitude is in line with that of Moscow, which of late has shown a certain tolerance in dealings with Bonn.

Among younger Polish officials there has, moreover, long been dissatisfaction that Poland is forced by the Soviet Union to comply with the GDR's every wish in its policy on the German Question. The resulting rigid friend-foe relationship, which is only partly explained by memories of Hitler, has often proved a handicap for Polish foreign policy, particularly in attempts to popularise Poland's security proposals in Western Europe.

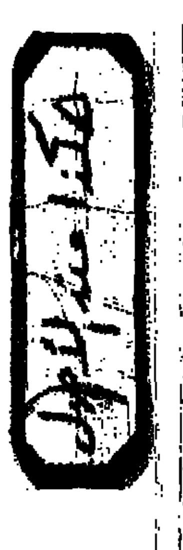
Security could therefore well be one of the reasons for Mr Gomulka's new attitude. Among Social and Free Democrats there has long been a certain feeling for a Rapacki-style European security system, since progress on the German Question is, the argument goes, possible only in a denuclearised and partially demilitarised Central Europe.

As, with things the way they are, an SPD-FDP coalition is far from out of the question after the forthcoming general election, Wladyslaw Gomulka's offer could be intended as an attempt to enter into discussions with the forthcoming government. It remains to be seen how the GDR will react to his proposals. Herr Ulbricht will obviously be none too pleased.

The Poles have already been told by Yugoslavia that their demand for recognition of the Oder-Neisse frontier by this country is illogical: Following recognition by East Berlin in the 1950 treaties of Görlitz and Warsaw any such demand to the Federal Republic amounts to indirect recognition of Bonn's claim to the sole right to represent the German people. But this in itself is no success for Bonn.

Paul Pucher

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 20 May 1969)



Common Market expansion talks gain momentum

Discussion of extension and expansion of the European Common Market, which gained momentum following the resignation of General de Gaulle has continued apace over the past few days. There appears to be general optimism about prosepcts of a prompt start to negotiations between the EEC and Great Britain on Britain's Common Market entry bid.

One reason for optimism was the recent visit to London paid by Finance Minister Franz Josef Strauss. Herr Strauss was most forthcoming towards Britain, conveying the impression of being a progressive European seriously interested in integration and making a good impression on government, opposition and Press in the process.

Britain's displeasure at the Federal government's refusal to revalue the Mark, a decision due mainly to Herr Strauss's determined opposition to any such move, was pushed into the background and completely outweighed by the Finance Minister's announcement that the Federal government, regardless of its composition after the general election this autumn, will advocate British membership of the Common Market.

An additional factor was Chancellor Kiesinger's comment in Tokyo that the future French government, regardless whether the next President is M. Pompidou or M. Poher, will hardly continue with General de Gaulle's policy of opposing British entry.

The Wilson administration, fighting hard to survive, understandably welcomed the statements made by Herr Strauss in London and Dr Kiesinger in Tokyo. In foreign and European policy at least it can now notch up successes that it has signally failed to achieve so far in home affairs.

Yet Whitehall's domestic and economic policy failures and the lack of success in persuading the trade unions to adopt a more reasonable attitude on wildcat strikes cast a less optimistic light on the problems attached to Britsh entry.

Britain's continued foreign trade and balance-of-payments deficit certainly makes it clear that Whitehall is a long way from bringing about the consolidation needed to make Britain a pillar of strength as a potential member of the Common Market.

A frequent view heard in Britain itself is that the economic and social handicaps that dog modernisation and rationalisation of British industry would be easier to overcome if only industry were exposed to the fresh winds of Common Market competition.

Entry formalities cannot be expected to be completed in a mere eighteen months, either. Negotiations on ways and means are bound to take longer and British entry will no doubt be best carried out step by step. The interim period between the commencement of negotiations and full British membership ought to be used by the British government and everyone else concerned to put their own house in order and create better preconditions for entry into the Common Market.

Euphoria about the date of eventual British entry is ill-advised. Hectic activity continues to be ill-advised. The first thing to do is to wait and see what happens in the French Presidential elections. If caretaker President Poher comes out on top France will definitely return to the European fold faster, which would improve the prospects of prompt resumption of negotiations with Britain.

Were M. Pompidou to win, the outcome would not be so clear but he too has already made it clear that he does not propose to continue General de Gaulle's negative policy towards Europe.

The decisive factor is there are good prospects of reactivating European integration policy, which has been at a standstill for so long. But progress can only be made by dint of future patience and determination.

The vision of the future outlined by Franz Josef Strauss in his London speech to the European Atlantic Group and his idea of a European federal state need not then be a fata morgana.

Karl Heinrich Herchenröder

(Handelsblatt, 22 May 1969)

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GOVERNMENT

Changing aspects of diplomatic training

Diplomacy is the art of cabling secretly what has appeared in the newspaper the day before," malicious tongues maintain. A commission chaired by retired ambassador von Herwarth is now discussing the true functions of the Foreign Service in Bonn.

Considering the increase in the number of this country's diplomatic missions — 205, at present, diplomatic and consular — and the growing importance of international cooperation in the fields of science, economy, technology and cultural affairs, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Willy Brandt has appointed a commission, within the programme of administrative reforms now being considered, to suggest improvements in the training facilities and efficiency of the Foreign Service.

A young diplomat receives his basic training in Bonn's school for diplomacy in the Raiffeisenstrasse. The school's director, Ivar Maenss is First Secretary of the Legation and the prototye of a jovial diplomat. He says, "A personal interview is desirable. Expenses cannot be refunded."

The white-fronted building in pretentious style of the late nineties had been for a time the seat of the Foreign Office after the war. The external elegance of the sehool is deceptive, however.

The interior of the school in which the young men who are later entitled to mount a CD plate on their cars are put through their diplomatic paces is *anything* but representative. The furniture is simple, almost too modest. The atmosphere in the dining-room and lecture rooms is down-to-earth, almost uncomfortably so.

"Take it symbolically," said a young attache. "The diplomatic service has glitter and pomp only when seen from the outside."

What was expected of a good diplomat 250 years ago? "A gift of observation, diligence, alertness, judgement, sensitivity, politeness, kindness, flexibility, self-restraint and the patience of a watchmaker."

Add to this list of virtues a sound knowledge of history, an acquaintance with foreign institutions and customs, a knowledge of languages, literature, science, mathematics and law. "The diplomat must also know how to entertain. A good cook is often an excellent mediator," De Callieres, Louis XIV's minister, writes in his journal, "De la manière de negocier aves les Souverains."

Much the same is required in the "Instruction Sheet on the Prerequisites and Conditions of Admission to Senior Diplomatic Service." Applicants are expected to have good general knowledge of the main political, economic, social and cultural issues of the present time. A knowledge of law is required, especially of international and administrative law.

Young diplomats are required to have a thorough knowledge of modern history and of English and French. Fitness for service in tropical areas is an advantage. Applicants mus have completed their studies and should not be older than 32.

Mentor Maenss demands even more of unfledged diplomats. "In my opinion, personality is even more important than knowledge. A young man in his late twenties can brush up on his knowledge, but there is little that can be done about his character then. Difficult situations arise in the Foreign Service in which character, not knowledge, is decisive. Loyalty and discretion are then the qualities required.

"Besides, a good diplomat must have a genuine interest in things. He must be inquisitive, approachable and reliable. Above all, he must be tactful. A defined allegiance of any kind or membership of a political party is not required."

Applicants who fulfil these conditions can apply for admission, submitting curricula vitae in German, English and French. Besides various references and documents and details of liabilities, if any, an exact account of where the applicant has lived in the ten years prior to the date of application is required — not only where he has lived but even where he has spent his holidays in this time.

This is necessary to rule out the possibility that applicants might be spies. At least three references are required.

The number of applicants indicates how popular the Diplomatic Service still is as a career. Annually, about 2,000 inquiries are received and some 800 candidates interviewed. "The younger the candidates are the better. In fact, we like to hear from them while they are still at school. Then we can advise them on what to study and how to prepare themselves," said Herr Maenss.

A selection committee makes the final decision on the suitability of the 120 to 150 applications submitted. The personal questionaires are important, as is the result of the first interview.

"The supply of candidates is more than adequate. Since 1964, the back-log demand has been filled," said Herr Maenss.

The Foreign Office employs 6,250 officials. The diplomatic school has trained 584 attaches since the war. At present, only twelves candidates have a chance of being admitted.

"The number admitted depends on the number of vacancies," explained the director. "The result is that a great many suitable people are lost to the service. Possible candidates generally do not wait a year until the next examinations are held because these are qualified people who can easily get a good job elsewhere."

Süddeutsche Zeitung
MÜNCHNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN

Needless to say, an aristocratic background is no longer a condition of acceptance into the Diplomatic Service. Of the 584 participants in the 24 training courses held since the war ten per cent were descendants of aristocratic families.

More than a quarter were children of senior officials. Fourteen per cent had fathers in the medium and lower echelons of the service. Over sixteen per cent of the fathers were independent businessmen. Over 11.5 per cent were employees in industry, the majority without university education.

Over nine per cent were graduate engineers and qualified economists. Eight per cent of the fathers belonged to the liberal professions such as doctors, lawyers, chemists, journalists and chartered accountants.



Candidates at the Bonn training centre for the diplomatic service

(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Six per cent were officers, 2.7 per cent judges, 1.5 per cent representatives of other academic professions, 1.5 per cent artists, 1.2 per cent tradesmen and similar workers and 0.69 labourers.

The list of professional categories of the young attaches is less varied. An average two-thirds of participants in all tuition course held to date were fresh from law school. The remaining third is composed of ten per cent economists, seventeen per cent philosophers and just under three per cent members of other faculties such as forestry, theology and medicine.

Herr Maenss deplores this preponderance of lawyers. "At a time of economic prosperity we have a dearth of economic experts. But we need people from all professions — sociologists, historians, linguists and also physicists and chemists — because we have so many departments."

Referring to the surplus of lawyers, Herr Maenss offered an explanation. "For one thing, there are quite a few lawyers about, and the cliche view is prevalent that lawyers are especially suited as Foreign Office officials."

One young attache said, however, "For many lawyers the Diplomatic Service is an escape from the boredom of legal activities. The second civil service examination is a retreat to which the lawyer can always return."

Another problem that causes some concern in the Foreign Office training centres is the age of the candidates. Attaches are usually 29 years old. "In this matter we must certainly begin with university reforms," said Herr Maenss.

One of the lawyers taking the course commented, "On graduation, one is simply too old to start in learning again. The prospect is discouraging." Special training facilities or shorter courses for people who intend to embark on further specialised studies after leaving school do not exist. The only concession made to lawyers is that their probationary period of service after graduation is shortened from two years to one.

In the school for diplomats ten months are given over to theoretical instruction (the course lasts eighteen months for graduate lawyers, two and a half years for all other candidates).

The curriculum, among other subjects, covers foreign aid, history of diplomacy, constitutional and international law, political economy and instruction in the preparation of diplomatic reports. Before the final examination attaches lawyers who have not served their probationary period spend twenty months gathering practical experience in the Foreign Office, in industry and in foreign missions of the Federal Republic. Full-fledged lawyers spend eight months abroad.

The Bonn school still endeavours to turn out "all-round diplomats," not specialists in politics, economy, cultural affairs and information. "In the Foreign Office an all-round man is superior to the specialist because he can be assigned to almost any department," explained Herr Maenss.

The same man must be able to head the economic office in Addis Ababa and the press office in Tokyo. He should be able to handle cultural matters in Tel Aviv and give his decision on legal matters in Washington. "The chances of an expert on cultural affairs being appointed head of administration are very slim without adequate training."

In any case specialist training takes too long. Such careers would be a considerable burden on the Foreign Office's personnel policy. This would lead to ramifications which would naturally swallow more funds than are now available.

The Foreign Office has, of course, its own complement of experts in the fields of economy, agriculture, science and social affairs. These are generally recruited, however, from the appropriate ministries.

Advanced training is probably a greater headache for the Bonn diplomatic teachers than the training courses for beginners. "What I learn to day is outmoded in ten years," said Herr Minwegen, another teacher. "The world is continually changing and the diplomat must be able to adapt to new trends."

The problem of adaptation is especially great when diplomats are *re*-posted. The Foreign Office does not afford diplomats an opportunity to prepare themselves — except for what they undertake themselves in the way of study — for their mission in another country. A so-called pre-post training seems advisable to officials in the Foreign Office.

On the Venusberg it is hoped to train greater numbers of diplomats in future. A diplomatic career was referred to by one young attache as "one of the last adventurous professions under the seal of officialdom."

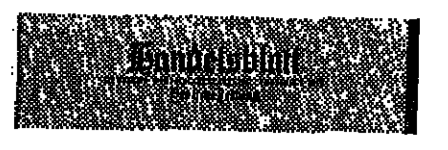
Sabine Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 May 1969)

■ CENTREPIECE

Revision of Basic Law called for

BUNDESTAG MEMBER HANS DICHGANS COMMENTS



The term "total revision" is taken from the 1874 Swiss constitution. Article 118 states that, "The Federal constitution can be totally or partially revised at any time." A straightforward majority of the National Council or Parliament, and also a minimum of 50,000 citizens, can initiate reforms. Eventually a referendum is held and once again a simple majority decides the issue.

If it is now being suggested that the series of "partial revisions," as the Swiss constitution puts it, made to this country's Basic Law (19 amendments to Basic Law in as many years, affecting 76 of the 146 articles) should give way to a broader re-examination, a total revision, then we should not indignantly reject the idea as a dangerous mania for innovation.

The expression "total revision" has aroused fears that ruthless innovators want to wipe the slate clean, do away with Basic Law altogether, negate basic rights and create something completely new, the contours of which cannot even be distinguished at present and which might, in the end, produce a new police state or government by workers' councils.

But "total revision" only means thoroughly investigating the various problematic aspects of Basic Law, which are generally considered to be in need of reform. It does not mean abolishing Basic Law and starting again from scratch. In a democracy reforms must always be based on the status quo. Growth can change direction, but it remains continuous.

It is feared that comprehensive revision of Basic Law might allow elements whose views do not agree with the liberal conception of this country's constitution to gain the upper hand. This is an important point.

Exclusion

But can this consideration really categorically exclude in advance certain reforms? Supposing that the overwhelming majority of a future generation was more authoritarian or more anti-authoritarian (both possibilities must be taken into account) than the 1949 generation, is there still, given the present stage of social development, an absolute scale of values which would justify blocking such trends in advance?

This question should not be treated lightly. Any radical reform, on the authoritarian or the anti-authoritarian side, aims to cement the newly-realised situation more permanently than Basic Law attempts to do. So anyone who opens the door to radical reforms could soon find himself in a far less satisfactory position than the present situation.

However, on the other hand attempts to eradicate changed political opinions through prohibitive majority decisions — by means of procedural methods, as it were, or even of a rigid ban — are also highly problematic. Even Horace said that it was pointless to try and influence nature with a dung-fork; nature always finds its own way.

In a democracy the prime task of any reform is not to preclude future reforms. And so we can tackle the problem of comprehensive constitutional reforms so long as we succeed in retaining the same possibilities of reform for future generations as we ourselves claim. Accordingly, *we should not reject outright discussion of far-reaching reforms of Basic Law.*

However, discussion should be limited to those aspects of Basic Law which are clearly in need of reform. We should beware of an unlimited debate on all the issues which could be considered when re-shaping a constitution.

For a start, this is essential because of the German Question. Because of an abstract desire to establish order and settle difficulties, it would certainly be wrong when discussing Basic Law to renounce claims or recognise disputed rights, thereby fruitlessly anticipating future discussion.

Avoidance

This should and can be avoided if reforms are restricted to the aspects of Basic Law which need revising. There are three areas in need of reform:

the mechanisms of decision-making on a Federal level,

defining the powers of the legislative and the executive,

defining the limits of politics and justice.

The question of decisions applying to the whole of the Federal Republic leads on to the topic of federalism. Only a few of the Federal states have a viable sense of identity. This is true in particular of Bavaria and Hamburg, and is also evolving in Baden-Württemberg.

But the people of North Rhine-Westphalia and of the Rhineland Palatinate simply regard their borders as the fortuitous consequence of fortuitous occupation decisions. A referendum on federalism would probably produce a large majority except in Bavaria in favour of a certralised system which limited the powers of the states.

This attitude should not simply be ignored, but nor should it be the deciding factor. Do we really want to transform our states into intermediate administrative authorities, perhaps rather like the old Prussian provinces which enjoyed considerable autonomy as regards road-building and welfare, for example, with their own provincial assemblies?

Weakening the states in this way would certainly be damaging. The Federal Republic is too big to be centrally administered. Even France, which is traditionally a bastion of centralised government, wants to increase the autonomy of reional authorities.

Many tasks can be tackled more effectively in Munich, Düsseldorf or Kiel because these centres are geographically and psychologically more immediate to the citizens concerned. It is also useful that the sum of the opinions of the state governments can provide a counterballance to the opinions of the Federal government in Bonn.

Thus, federalism should be strengthened, not weakened. But this can only be achieved if we overcome the obvious weaknesses of our present form of federalism.

The main weakness of the present system is that we have no practical means of finding rational, national solutions to problems which, by their very nature, need to be dealt with on a Federal level *but are not the responsibility of the* central government. There are a large number of tasks of this kind, facing practically all state ministries. It is easy to prove this.

Within the terms of reference of virtually all state ministries, national regulations based on agreements between the state governments have been introduced by unanimous decisions on the part of the state parliaments or by unanimous instructions issued by the eleven state governments.

As yet the legal nature of these agreements, which are not envisaged in Basic Law or in the state constitutions, has not been clarified. The agreements function well and badly, and in some cases extraordinarily efficiently.

But it would be premature to conclude that no constitutional reforms are necessary because through agreements of this kind the states have solved numerous problems on a national scale. The trouble with these solutions — both the way they are arrived at and their effects — is that they presuppose unanimity.

Any state, even the small states like Bremen or the Saar, can block any innovation by refusing support. Thus, for example, the urgent agreement on university exapnsion was held up for two years because the Saar withheld approval, though admittedly for a plausible rason: this poor Federal state simply did not have the necessary funds.

This principle of unanimity only allows minimal solutions; each state can make its approval dependent on the fulfillment of its own special requirements, whether these demands are reasonable or not.

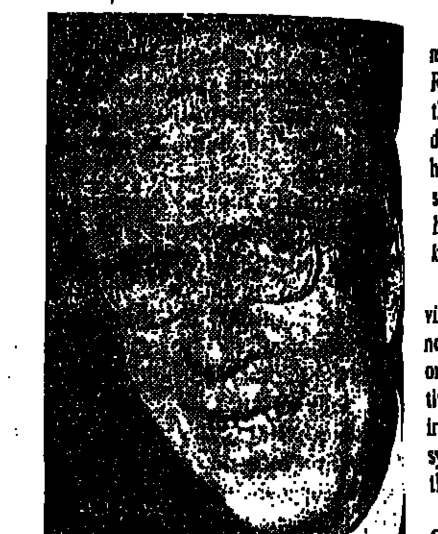
Beginning

This is where reforms must begin. It is neither necessary nor expedient to make the central government responsible for all these regulations. But a system of inter-state cooperation which allows majority decisions to stand must be found.

The Bundesrat, which at present is only an organ of the Federal government, could also function as a state council and be the instrument of new constitutional cooperation between the Federal states, established in Basic Law. This state council would have roughly the same standing as the Council of Ministers in the European Economic Community (EEC).

In accordance with Article 189 of the EEC treaty, the Council of Ministers can determine guide-lines which are binding as regards the desired objective, but the form and methods of implementing these decisions is left up to the relevant national authorities.

This is just the kind of procedure



Hans Dichgans
(Photo: [illegible])

which we need for cooperation between the eleven states in the Federal Republic. A majority of the state council should be able to decide upon binding guide-lines; all states would be obliged to work towards the agreed objective, but would be free to introduce their own methods.

To allow for unhurried consideration of all objections, including the objections of a single state, a time *schedule* would have to be introduced. For example, objection by a single state during the first year in which a proposal was mooted could be allowed to prevent a decision being reached by this state council. In the second year at last three states would have to raise objections; the normal majority procoduce would only apply from the third year onwards.

The value of cooling-off periods of this sort has been proved by the British House of Lords. The state council could be backed up by an advisory, parliamentary assembly whose memebers would be appointed by the eleven state assemblies according to the type of methods which apply to the European parliament, for example.

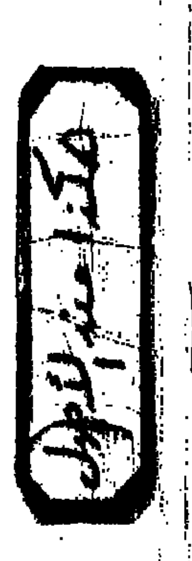
This institution would also ensure appropiate participation by parliamentarians in in decision-making; peculiarly, parliamentarians have virtually no say in the present inter-state agreements. If a ministerial or official's conference laboriously reaches a decision which is to apply to the whole country, the state parliaments really only have the opportunity to ratify this decision; that is, they can only say yes or no and not suggest any amendments. An advisory parliamentary assembly under the state council could fill this gap.

Under this new system, then, there would by three areas of responsibility:

matters concerning the central government, roughly as at present;

matters concerning all the states which would be dealt with by the state council. For the time being, it might be an idea to introduce this procedure for those matters on which the states have already

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■ POLITICS

Democracy and the appeal of long-standing tradition

"Here in Anatevka," explains the milkman Tevje in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof,* "we have a tradition for everything. The way we eat, sleep, work and dress. For example, we always cover our heads and carry a small prayer-shawl as a sign of our piousness. Now you may ask how this tradition started. I don't know. That's tradition."

The people of Anatevka, the Jewish village in Tsarist Russia, were certainly not classical democrats; they were a bit orthodox, very pious and very conservative. Nonetheless, they had enough self-irony to laugh at their traditions and symbols whilst at the same time revering them.

We, the people of the free part of Germany, are also not classical democrats. Perhaps, without realising it, we only live in a democratic diaspora. Is it because we have such a fractured realitionship with our traditions and symbols?

There are the orthodox types of yesteryear who would like to see a Kaiser as Federal President, the mystics of nationalism who reiterate sentiments typical of the Weimar Republic, "We want a president at the helm", and there are still a

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few traditionalists who maintain, "You are nothing, your people is everything," and waste their time dreaming of the time when they controlled Europe.

This is one side of the coin. The other side is characterised by the iconoclastic rage of people who try to destroy everything which even sniffs of traditionalism. Traditional forms of politeness or of ceremony, functional signs and even the preliminaries to amorous relationships are regarded as the despicable ballast of an "authoritarian past."

Occasionally the two tendencies escalate. When the APO lawyer Horst Mahler first refused to wear a gown at the trial concerning the burning of a department store in Frankfurt, a colleague summed up the result in a sentence full of bitter truth: Mahler's client got one year because her lawyer appeared without a gown, one year because he behaved impossibly in court, and the third year for the actual offence committed.

Of course, traditionalists and iconoclasts would both dispute the central truth of this deliberately exaggerated formulation. For those who regard this incident as evidence of progress towards polo-necked sweaters for formal wear but who are unwittingly in the process of uniforming their protest against conventions, the admission that this formulation could be correct would be evidence in support of their thesis of the "repressive function of ritual."

Of course, democracy depends on rationality and not on ritual. The only belief which democracy presupposes is the belief in the maturity, tolerance and sense of responsibility of individuals.

Empty authoritarian formulas instead of rational criteria for decision-making, the overbearing attitude of officials instead of authority based on efficiency and character are aspects of traditional German authoritarianism. These tendencies should be eliminated and, if necessary, revolutionised.

But regarding the professional attire of a judge or lawyer, the uniform and badges of rank of a soldier and finally the conventions of civilised society as "repressive rituals" is foolish.

In addition, if they are not anti-constitutional right from the start, the actions and reactions of the iconoclasts are not so much evidence of the desire to abolish myths as of the extreme intolerance of the participants.

We are not in Anatevka. In this country everyone should be able to dress as they please and wear their hair as short or long as they like, and not be sent to prison because they remain seated in court. The state is at present in the process of withdrawing from the realms of human privacy. The last traditions and symbols of borrowed authority are disappearing in this country.

This does not mean that the democratic concept of this republic should preclude the use of symbols. Admittedly, in a country without an unbroken democratic tradition it is difficult to find symbols and establish traditions which — like the black-red-and-gold Federal flag — bear witness to the idea of freedom.

More convincingly than our politicians have been able to so far, President Kennedy articulated on behalf of his country a credible rational policy which emotionally involved even the large majority of unpolitical citizens in the common good.

It is up to us not to allow the few symbols and traditions which have remained valid despite the passage of time to be destroyed.

Hans Schueler
(DIE WELT, 17 May 1969)

Continued from page 4

reached agreements. It would then be much easier to develop these agreements further, because there would no longer be any possibility of vetoing a decision.

Finally, matters concerning individual states. This category would include, for example, the stato budgets.

So much for federalism. The second area for reform concerns legislation. Our environmental conditions are so complicated, intervention by the state in economic and social spheres takes so many different forms that an individual parliamentarian can no longer grasp all the implications of many laws on which he has to vote. It is often difficult to explain all the ramifications of a modern piece of legislation.

To a certain extent every parliamentarian has to rely on his more expert colleagues. The extent to which this relaince is necessary has reached intolerable proportions.

In the case of ninety per cent of the bills presented, less than ten per cent of members can envisage the detailed consequences of the proposed law. This produces a sham parliamentary system: decisions are not reached by all members but by the experts of the individual political parties.

Parliamentarians

After a few years of parliamentary work, the individual parliamentarian who is usually pretty conscientious (members of parliament usually work too much rather than too little) has to admit resignedly that even if he makes a supreme effort he cannot survey all the implications. The area in which a parliamentarian specialises is often the result of chance.

And then occasionally spectacular mistakes are made, as in the case of the seventh amendment to the law governing the reparation of National Socialist injustice as regards public service employees. This brought about the downfall of former Bundestag chairman Gerstenmaier. This was much more a failure on the part of the Bundestag, than a failure by Gerstenmaier.

Members' abilities

The responsibilities of the Bundestag must be adapted to the abilities of its members. The Bundestag must remain responsible for:

the choice of government and controlling the government;

the Federal budget (which every member can comprehend at least in broad outline and can, therefore, reach a considered decision);

classic areas of legislation which affect normal coexistence, from Basic Law to civil and penal law.

However, as regards taxation, economic and social legislation new procedures must be developed, which would obviate the necessity for Bundestag members to deal with a multitude of individual bills.

The simplest alternative would be to combine all these individual decisions with the annual budget, as is the case in Britain for example. The responsibility of the parliamentarian is thus mainly limited to deciding whether he approves of a certain sum being spent for a specific purpose.

He is capable of reaching this decision. But to a greater extent than hitherto the government should decide on the details of expenditure. Every year the government should formulate an overall proposal, covering all its plans for the coming year, and this bill should be passed in toto. The responsibility for mistakes would then lie with the minister, who can avail himself of comprehensive information from his department, and not with Bundestag members who all too often have to rely on hearsay.

This third area of constituonal reform involves defining the limits of politices and justice. In good faith the Federal Constitutional Court has usefully clarified numerous legal issues.

But it overrates itself, just as many lawyers and professors seem to suffer from a kind of occupational disease of thinking that they know better. Over and above its legitimate legal responsibilities, the Constitutional Court has repeatedly penetrated the political sphere where the alternative "more or less expedient" rather than the alternative "just or unjust" applies.

When deciding on the chemist case, the court bluntly rejected the opinion of the Bavarian state parliament and accepted its own prognosis of future developments. When considering the financing of splinter parties, it arbitrarily replaced the limit reasonably adopted by the Bundestag on the basis of an earlier decision by the court by its own limit.

Reform needed

It has declared almost half of the laws on which it has had to reach a decision as totally or partially invalid and has thought it legitimate to intervene on important issues, even when the members of the court were not agreed amongst themselves. Laws which the Bundestag passed virtually unanimously have been declared invalid by a majority of five to three. This situation is in urgent need of reform.

As regards the methods of effecting constitutional reforms, Article 79, of Basic Law states that a two-thirds majority of the members of the Bundestag and of the Bundesrat is necessary. This is a very formidable hurdle to overcome.

Should a minority whose objections may be based on quite different motives (during the Weimar Republic there were nasty combinations of night- and left-wing extremists) be permitted to obstuct rational amendments?

Constitutional law maintains that, at all times, parliament's power to amend the constitution is paralleled by the people's right to determine the constitution. This right could be applied through a revolution. But, at any time, it can also be claimed by the legislature.

Majority decisions

This is what is meant by total revision in the Swiss constitution. The Federal Republic could also follow this path. At any time the Bundestag and Bundestat could decide with the required majority to convene a national, constitutional assembly, which would then reach straightforward majority decisions with the reservation that the result would have to be approved by a referendum.

This was the procedure used by the Parliamentary Council in creating Basic Law. A law on the introduction of constitutional reform must come about and determine the composition of the national assembly responsible for amending the constitution.

Thus, for example, the Bundestag could decide that the next Bundestag would also be a national assembly. Or it could refer this task to a body which would have to be constituted according to the principles of the Federal assembly. A respected constitutional lawyer even thinks that a simple law would be sufficient to give the next Bundestag the character of a national, constitutional assembly.

Before all these procedures are initiated, political institutions must decide wheather the present system can deal with many small amendments to Basic Law as sufficient and satisfactory. If the answer is no, then more broadly based constitutional reforms could be worked out without difficulty.

(Handelsblatt, 16 May 1969)

■ MUSIC

Prokofiev's forgotten 'The Fiery Angel' staged at Frankfurt

Frankfurt's opera interpreters have learnt a lesson from students: the apparently sinful Renata, who goes to a convent to escape the demons, is stoned by the resident nuns. When the inquisitor approaches to drive out the devil, the poor man is embarrassed by bare-breasted nuns far more energetically than Adorno was by Frankfurt women students.

The occasion of this unusual operatic topicality was Vaclav Kaslik's production of Prokofiev's almost forgotten opera *The Fiery Angel*. This work was written in 1927 as a complement to *Love of Three Oranges* and is based on a story by Bryusow.

Renata who tends to have visions believes that Count Heinrich, who was in love with her for a short while and then expelled her as a witch, is the angel Madiel who has been promised to her. With the help of Ruprecht, a widely travelled knight who has fallen into her power, and with the aid of magic, Renata tries to keep track of Heinrich.

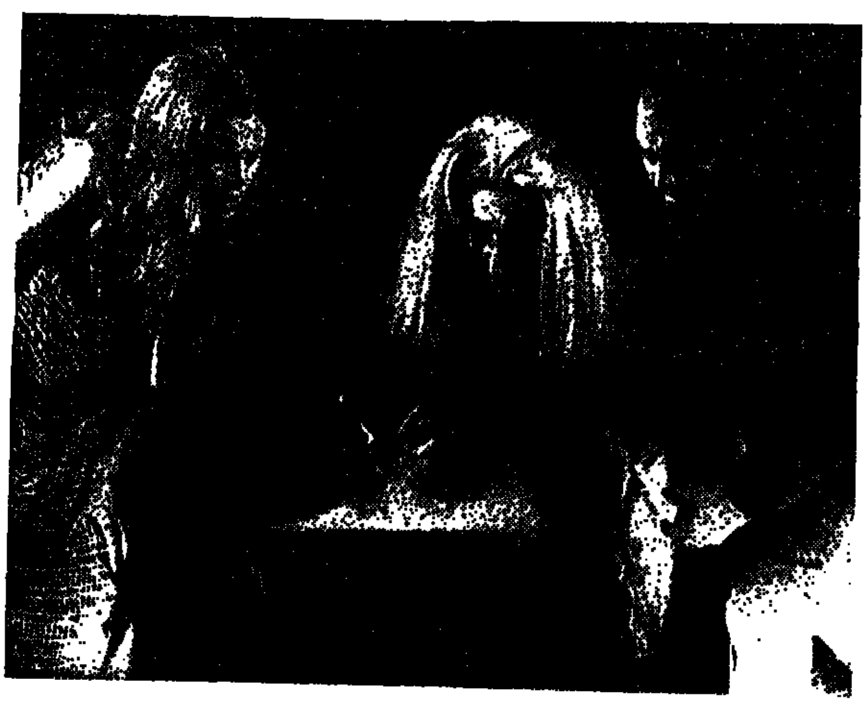
She finds him and is rejected. Ruprecht dies after a duel with Heinrich, and Renata goes to a convent where she unleashes an orgy of sexual frenzy and finally suffers death at the stake. The action takes place in Germany during the late Middle Ages.

Prokofiev's opera was only premiered in 1955 in Venice; later it was staged in this country, but only in East Berlin, and then in 1960 it was produced by Schuh in Cologne. In comparison with the Cologne rendering, the long-overdue new production in Frankfurt is considerably more compressed and effective.

One scene in which Faust and Mephistopheles appear, and Ruprecht's lament after the duel have been cut. Consequently, the music only lasted 84 minutes. The result was a dramatic, almost hectically intensified evening's opera with a spanking finale, such as has scarcely ever been achieved at any opera house.

Svoboda, Kaslik's reliable and always imaginative set-designer, positioned a fiery-red house in the middle of the stage – a bit like a house-of-cards or a gingerbread house, and a bit like a church. The walls opened and shut like an altar-piece, thus revealing various interiors in quick succession.

At one point it served as an inn, then as a magician's den, and later the set was transformed into the reedy banks of the Rhine. At the end the convent chapel is adequately suggested, behind which a huge pile of logs appears, dominated by the figure of Count Heinrich as a fiery angel.



A scene from 'The Fiery Angel' with Anja Silja (left), Sona Cervena and Rudolf Constantin (Photo: Günter Englert)

But even here Kaslik did not dissociate himself from traditional, theatrical effects – Renata's supernatural invocations seemed superficial and conventional. The juxtaposition of naturalistic events and stylised exaggeration spoilt the whole production including the entry of the three bare-breasted girls.

Their pale skin was far less obscene than the subtly revealed Anja Silja and the frenzied nuns (wearing flesh-coloured body-stockings with a black section for the body, white breasts and a white cross on their stomachs), who tear the cowls off the monks and the inquisitor (played by Heinz Hagenau, visibly horrified and expressing disgust in his powerful bass voice).

Anja Silja received enthusiastic applause for her interpretation of a role which could have been written specially for her. Hanging on a cross-beam, she kicked the importunate Ruprecht, swinging and singing at the same time; she threw herself on the ground in misery, showed humility as a novice and portrayed sex appeal as a nun without a habit: she was half Lulu and half Salome.

Her powerful and striking voice had no difficulty in interpreting the exalted score. She gave a credible rendering of Prokofiev's individual *Sprechgesang*.

Christoph von Dohnanyi also achieved an extraordinary personal triumph on this evening: he was overwhelmed with applause. After his sensational interpretation of Debussy's *Pelleas and Melisande* he was applauded for his constantly circumspect tense conducting and his admirable control of the musical explosions. From the tonal and rhythmic points of view, nothing more could have been desired.

Dohnanyi was able to express the real meaning of the work and also the extraordinary topicality of Prokofiev's music. This dense, bold and striking score prefigures techniques employed by Boulez, Penderecki or Ligeti – with its screeching strings, cascading brass or brutally elemental passages.

And so this perfomance was more than a sensation; it confirms that this Prokofiev opera, so splendidly performed (form Rudolf Constantin's Ruprecht to the smallest nun's part), can legitimately enrich the repertoire.

W.-E. von Lewinski
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 May 1969)

Music and the visual arts combined

For the performance of Walter Steffen's *Pintura del Mundo* a screen is hung behind the orchestra and, as the work is played, *The Garden of Pleasures*, the famous altar-piece by Hieronymous Bosch, is projected onto it section by section.

The audience can look and listen at the same time and is intended to establish the connection between the sounds – "quasi una sinfonia" in five compact movements – and the fantastic vision of the late medieval painter.

True, it is not easy to bridge the gap between the two works of art for Walter Steffens has not tried to provide a superficial illustration or mere tonal embellishments. Beethoven's frequently misquoted comment on the Pastoral Symphony – "more an expression of perception than painting" – also applies in this instance.

Bosch merely initiated the creative, artistic process which then developed utterly independently, in accordance with its own laws and formal requirements.

The reproduction produced by the projector could, therefore, be dispensed with; the listener could do without it all the more because the extended composition is so rich and varied in expression that it is difficult for the static pictures to hold the attention.

Walter Steffens is a 34-year-old Hamburg composer and made a name for himself particularly through his opera about Nelly Sachs, *Eli*, which was premiered in Dortmund. He has since been commissioned by Rolf Liebermann to set Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* to music.

Steffens tends towards the emphatic gesture, the passion of violent expression and towards a kind of post-serial expressiveness. *Pintura del Mundo*, an orchestral work lasting about forty minutes, is often surprisingly harmonious and frequently achieves harmonic stability.

The extravagant instrumentation is justified by the material. Steffens often obtains harsh, noisy effects produced by a remarkable battery of percussion instruments, which usually give way to gently floating clusters of notes.

Unmistakable, significant points are given special motifs and the tautness of the score is not relaxed by the short aleatoric passages. The woodwind section in particular have opportunities for improvisation; above glissandi, tremoli or col legno effects they can trill or exult as they please.

Pintura del Mundo was commissioned by Hamburg University and premiered at the 9th University Concert in the auditorium maximum by the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Through these concerts Hamburg not only welcomes students as additional consumers of the city's cultural facilities, but oragnises concerts specially for them, concerts which are just as carefully planned and prepared as those for regular concert-goers.

Under the clear, intensive guidance of Wolfgang Sawallisch, the conductor, the Hamburg Philharmonic played Steffens' new composition with strong rhythmic pregnancy and with imaginative delight during the improvised sections, and the tone was as "beautiful" as Steffens occasionally demands. The pale, melancholic colours of the score and the vehement dramatic attacks were both effectively realised.

Peter Dannenberg
(DIE WELT, 12 May 1969)

No interest in New Music

A recently published book *Kritik – von wem, für wen, wie?* (Criticism – by whom, for whom, in what form?) may have suggested the theme of a gathering organised by the New Music Group in West Berlin: New Music – why, for whom and what for?

Everyone present was to join in the discussion – but the general public did not turn up in the expected numbers. Participants were virtually unanimous as to who was interested in New Music: the same small group of adherents.

Opinions differed on the question of who was responsible for this minority appeal. Some people thought that the complicated composers themselves were to blame; others blamed the mass media, education or the economic situation; in brief, circumstances which are not quite right.

It is no wonder that some young people got fed up with the pointless analysis of well-known facts and demanded a different approach. But they did not really know where to begin either; no one could say what "revolutionary" music should be like. No one hit upon the idea that if social conditions were decisively changed, music might not be so important any more!

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 3 May 1969)



■ THEATRE

Mrozek's 'The Turkey-Cock' premiered at Düsseldorf

A turkey-cock pays attentions to a hen. He does not really want to, but the farmer encourages him. He performs, but listlessly.

What comes of this union? A grotesque comical thing, "a bit too pointed," hardly to be called an egg. One must wait to see what comes out of it.

On this hopeful note ends *The Turkey-Cock*, a burlesque by Slavomir Mrozek. It was premiered recently in this country in Düsseldorf's Schauspielhaus.

The play is not new. It received its successful premiere in 1961 in Cracow and has since been produced in many Polish theatres.

The Poles, apparently, understood it in a political context, as a rousing call, a protest against lethargy. Also as an attack on the totalitarian state which is determined to dominate even the most private spheres of its citizens through a Ministry of the Emotions.

The stage represents a bar, and Polish designer made it at once fantastic and corrupt, with dark corners and partitions and high galleries. Present, besides the poet, is the army captain who originally arrived to round up revelling recruits and then stayed to drink beer, eventually to be overcome by the question: "What is it all about? "

Since then the captain has somehow lost his initiative. Against his will he has succumbed "to the general crisis of values."

The captain, however, desires nothing better than to regain his lost initiative. This is why he takes up the violin, although he has no idea of music. "A common ox is closer to the problems of art then he," says the poet. Still, the captain hopes that playing the violin will reawaken in him whatever sentiments and beliefs he has lost.

The captain is pretending, whereas the poet honestly faces his predicament. For, "art which describes absurdity" would not be "honest towards itself. Working zealously on form in order to express chaos and futility is in itself a contradictory occupation."

Such crumbs of insight are continually falling from the lavishly endowed table of the poet Slavomir Mrozek who does not identify himself at all with the poet on the stage, although the latter too refrains from cultivating listlessness for its own sake. The non-initiative described is nearer to being a revolt against inherited values, but a revolt that dies in the bud from the "poison of reflection."

Also present are three farmers, none of whom hasany desire to sow or to plough or to reap. They drink beer and form a kind of chorus to this satirical burlesque which starts rolling with the appearance of a young couple.

Rudolf and Laura are lovers fleeing from a duke who wants to marry Laura for political reasons. The young man is a text-book idealist. He bubbles into lyrical verse and relates his story as if it were an heroic epic.

Laura adores him. Neither of them knows anything yet about the "destructive influence of reflection," and Rudolf scornfully denounces the loafers as "decadent people" and "nihilists." He considers himself a "free man," fearless and blameless.

The duke catches up with the runaway lovers; accompanied by an antidiluvian prophet and a warden of virtue. The duke is quite a modern despot. He quickly sizes up the situation and also the indolent good-for-nothings in the bar.

In the general crisis of values, he argues, there is but one prime consideration. "The only occupation in which no one is lazy or hesitates is love." He was to be borne out.

No sooner does Laura appear on the stage when the so pretentiously paraded indolence of the poet begins to totter considerably. Laura sees at once that the poet's entire attitude is plainly decadent and nihilistic, besides being pretentious and comical.

Disgusted, Laura turns to the captain, the "last honest nihilist," who does not want to be one. She encourages him to play the violin.

The poet, who just manages to avoid a duel with Rudolf, also encourages the captain – as the farmer urges on his turkey cock. One must wait to see what comes of it. At present, it can hardly be called music.

Rudolf becomes a soldier and the moral prophet becomes an army chaplain. Their future is secured.

The farmers continue to drink their beer, and the poet must work out his own problems. The committed, energetic way he defends the captain and the freedom of artistic creation is a great change from his former listlessness. He has still not found an answer, however, to the question that is at the root of the play, namely, "What is it all for? "

Mrozek is obviously concerned with this "nevertheless" angle. The play soon transcends topical, local or nationally political aspects and interpretations. It becomes the parable and parody of a timelessly topical reality in world affairs.

Wolfgang Reinbacher as the poet, Otto Rouvel as the captain, Evelyn Balser as Laura and Manfred Paethe as Rudolf followed Karl-Heinz Martell's direction that adhered closely to the author's instructions. No spontaneity worth talking about was allowed to develop, and no attempt was made to impart additional impulses to the plot in its original form.

Eo Plunien
(DIE WELT, 13 May 1969)

A scene from Slavomir Mrozek's 'The Turkey-Cock' presented at Düsseldorf. Laura was played by Evelyn Balser and Rudolf by Manfred Paethe. Behind them are Wolfgang Reinbacher as The Poet and Otto Rouvel as The Captain. (Photo: Horst müller)

Asia Week staged at Recklinghausen

Plans are underway for an Encountering Asia Week as part of the 1970 Ruhr Festival in Recklinghausen. Plays, dance-drama and music from India, Indonesia and Thailand are to be presented on three evenings.

Dr Erhard Eppler, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation whose department initiated plans for this Asian week, recently told journalists in Munich that the project was part of an effort to transform the one-sided donor-ecipient relationship with developing countries into more of a mutual partnership.

The Asian week will also involve academic events, exhibitions, lectures and discussions. Amongst others, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Federal Press Office and the Goethe Institutes are helping with preparations for this event.

(Handelsblatt, 15 May 1969)

Science Fiction on youth stage

The space age came to the theatre for the first time in this country in Nuremberg. *Alpha 2001* by Herbert Williams was a chapter out of science fiction, representing a long-overdue attempt to combine stage drama with the marvels of technology.

The play was not only a novelty for Europe. It drew attention generally to the problems facing this kind of theatre for young people.

In the case of hitherto presented genres of fairy tale and adventure it was often felt, and probably rightly so, that young people went to the theatre only to satisfy the childish interest of their grandfathers. Such plays do not satisfy youngsters' curiosity springing from topical developments in science and technology.

In the case of *Alpha 2001* director Hans-Walter Gossmann and designer Sepp Schick applied themselves with vigour and imagination to the unfamiliar milieu between research and universe.

In almost exemplary fashion they failed to surmount the decisive difficulties in the way of dramatic productions of this kind. The play serves a useful function but it does almost too well. Young people's thirst for information is quenched to the point of drowning.

Technical terms and information clothe the bare bones of conflict situations in space. Many of these situations are contrived. A rescue manoeuvre carried out by Venus astronauts in 1975 and laced with measurements and figures soon loses its theatrical relevance.

Also technology's strength of illusion, as the basis of such time-orientated theatre for young people, was not convincingly demostrated in this play. Rocking the module was funny rather than a gripping demonstration of unimaginable speed. Better solutions could have been found.

A better balance between information and imagination must prevail in plays of this kind. An alibi for the continuation of an old wives' tale on Nuremberg's young stage is the poor result of this experiment.

As regards the "educational import" there is no call for anxiety. Moral impulses can be transmitted to the isolated adventrues in space. *Alpha 2001* proves this. The plot reveals national small-mindedness. Doubts regarding the miracle of technology and faith in the superiority of man are given cogent expression.

Dietmar N. Schmidt
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 May 1969)

■ THINGS SEEN

Art as fun in Recklinghausen exhibition

Marshall McLuhan talks about a new, mythical, unified existence. Bazon Brock talks about emancipation through one's own imagination. A new social awareness is manifested in the exhibition "Art as fun — Fun as art" arranged by Thomas Grochowiak for the 1969 Ruhr Festival in Recklinghausen.

Grochowiak regards his exhibition and the objects included in it as "committed." On the ground floor mechanical Chinese nightingales sing in tiny gold cages with the heart-rending sweetness of an Andersen fairy-tale; elegant women enjoy boating parties on moving waters, disppearing into Renaissance-like landscapes behind glass windows; clocks and musical boxes in glass cases play dainty little tunes.

And on the first and second floors the visitor floats, apparently weightlessly, through the brightly-lit mirror room designed by Martial Raysse; Uwe-York Schlüter's psychedelic ballet dances simultaneous figures to the blare and vibration of pop songs and marching songs.

With the aid of a flash-light the viewer can reflect his shadow onto Konrad Fischer-Lueg's phosphorescent wall for 45 seconds or a minute, just like playing shadow games in the nursery.

Agam's speaking bulb becomes lighter or darker in response to certain words, and a luminous waterfall begins to ripple if the spectator sings heartily enough. Gerstner's "Carro 64" building bricks are positioned immediately next to contemporary children's toys and Otmar Alt's "Paraphrase on the Puzzle."

If rods made of artificial material are stroked with wet fingers, tones not unlike the sound of New Year trumpeters are produced via a metal foil structure, shaped like enormous insect's wings. In a triangular mirror-tent Nikolas Schöffer presents his "De-materialisation of works of art." Only coloured shadow-play of his mobile sculptures is projected through a gauze screen into the interior of the tent and onto the mirror.

Thomas Grochowiak quotes Martin Neumann with reference to an earlier Ruhr Festival exhibition and the "delicate use of the useless." On the other hand, he points out that Julio Le Parc and Hugo Demarco, who are represented in the "Light and Movement" category, were turned out of Paris, where they live, and out of France for a while during the May 1968 disturbances.

Seldom has a museum been less like a museum, in the conventional sense with pictures on the walls and sculptures arranged in the rooms, than the Recklinghausen Kunsthalle at the moment. Quite apart from the fact that it is difficult to recognise the building anyway, because walls have been incorporated into the displays and numerous stands and partitions have been erected.

The question of which exhibits are Art and which are not simply does not arise. A natural aspect of the awareness developed by this exhibition and provoked in the spectator is that Art as an isolated phenomenon no longer exists. Art is only a synonym for the simultaneousness of stylistic objectives, society and politics aimed at creating a more humane existence.

This show really is a pure delight for the spectator. Here, ideological artistic postulates which have been spelt out during the last ten or fifteen years become plausible and comprehensible. The concept of the artist as an original genius is rejected.

While the exhibition was being set up the workmen suddenly wanted to play instead of work when the artists began to install their objects. During discussions on assembly methods, artificial fibres, neon or concealed lighting, electronic motors and so on, the workmen commented derogatorily, "We could do that as well as you!" To which the artists' reply was: "And so you should!"

"The spectator is involved in the creative process; art is presented not as an object to be viewed, but as a process to be shared, not as something contrasting with nature, but as the nature of everyday reality. Most of the works on display are only "complete" when the viewer touches them, modifies or re-arranges them. Thus the viewer helps to create, invent and play with the objects.

And as he plays the spectator realises that exclusive rationality, the emphasis on causal relationships did not only free mankind from the demon of irrationality, but brought with it new restrictions in the form of a programmed existence: an existence whose supposed emancipation simply leads to a heirarchy of values which must now be regarded as outdated — the heirarchy of profit.

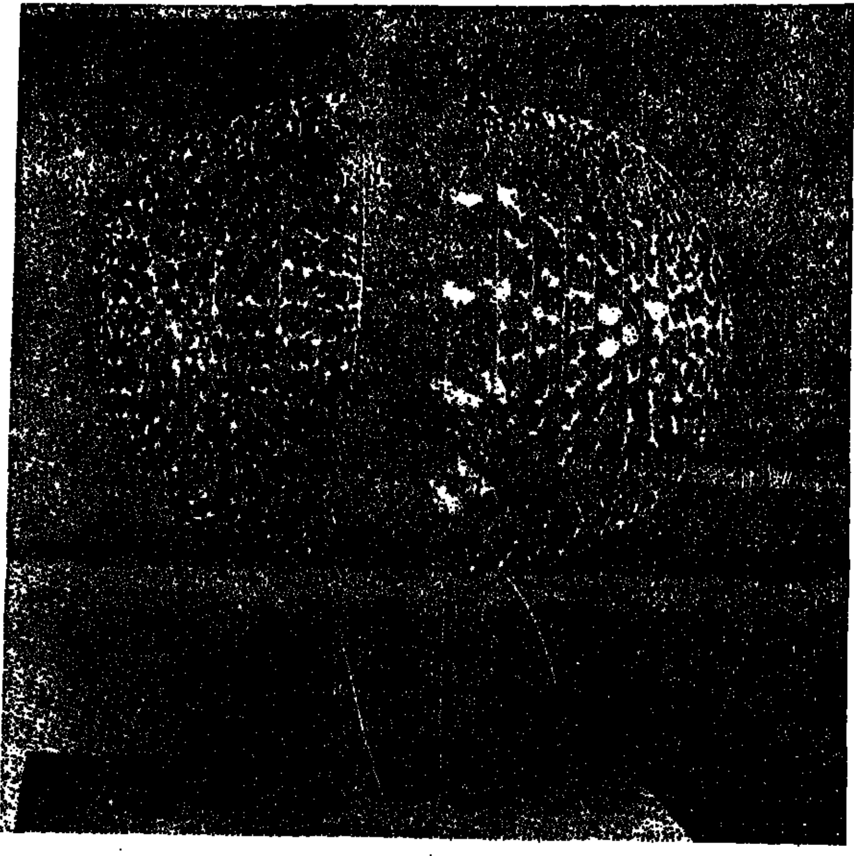
The undeniable optimism engender[ed] by the Recklinghausen exhibition de[-] pends, without a doubt, on the fact tha[t] just by entering the museum visitors become quasi-creative, and as they lo[ok] around and participate this creativity [is] intensified and they achieve a new le[vel] of self-knowledge.

Efforts to change conditions and [so]ciety — this exhibition argues — will [not] succeed through demonstrations b[ut] through a change of mind on the part [of] the individual. By realising his own p[o]tential, the individual escapes the bo[nds] of inevitability.

Although the exhibition does [not] claim to be exhaustive, the concentra[ted] and varied documentation of "Art as [Fun] — Fun as Art" provides a new synthe[sis] of materialism and idealism, and it e[x]presses the durability of previous ex[otic] cultures. *Homo Ludens* is presented he[re] as *homo politicus* in one of his paradis[es].

Klaus U. Reink[e]

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 May 1969)



'Flirt' by Günter Haese done in 1965

(Photos: Katalog)





'Moveable part for a mechanical figure', a clock mechanism made from brass

Chinese art bequest

With assistance from the Thy[ssen] Foundation, the Museum for East-A[sian] Art in Cologne has acquired a compre[hen]sive archive on Chinese painting [and] writing from the estate of Professor [Vic]toria von Winterfeldt-Contag.

The archive includes old and r[ecent] recent portfolios and monographs [of] almost all the Chinese painters who [have] made a name for themselves ou[tside] China.

(DIE WELT, 9 May 1969)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Recent advances in dosimeter studies in this country



Intensive research is going on in the USA with the aim of using exothermic electrons for the production of dosimeters. Dosimeters are used for measuring the amount of radiation emitted during radio-active processes, or more precisely the energy which an irradiated medium, for example organic tissue, weighing one gram produces.

This new principle has aroused similar interest in the USSR, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and in other countries. The principle involved is the Kramer effect. This is what it is called in the scientific literature of both the East and the West.

Who is Kramer? His name does not figure on any lists of great scholars or in Who's Who. The person concerned is Dr Johannes Kramer, at present director of and professor at the Brunswick-West Berlin physics and technology institute. He was the first to investigate and define exothermic electrons.

Kramer began his research in 1939 at the Reich physics and technology institute. During the late twenties the physicist Hans Geiger (1882-1945), a pupil of Rutherford's, had already observed that, if it was newly manufactured, his Geiger countor, (which was developed by Müller) displayed a relatively great nil effect which after a time always reverted to normal.

After the war Kramer continued his investigation of this phenomenon. Scrutinising the metal surfaces, he had already established that electron emission as a result of mechanical processing was not a property of the pure metal, but of the non-metallic surface layers.

Then, he discovered that electron emissions were much greater with certain non-metals (crystals) if these experimental substances underwent mechanical processing or were subjected to radiation.

A number of other, hitherto unknown, factors led Professor Kramer to conclude in 1954 that there is a close connection between the luminescence (emission of light not caused by high temperature) and the radiation of slow-moving electrons from non-metallic surfaces.

Thus the foundations were laid for the new aspect of physics, research into exothermic electrons. In 1949 Professor W. Köster, until 1950 the first president of the Federal physics and technology institute, coined the term "exo-electrons" for the "cold" electron emissions. This term was adopted by Federal Republic physicists and later by their colleagues abroad.

Since 1965 the process which occurs when these exo-electrons are emitted has been internationally known as the Kramer effect. Certain chemists in this country do not talk about the Kramer effect (the four-volume Römpp published in 1966 ignores the term), but it must be stated that the process of exo-electron emission is complicated and also a specifically physical occurrence.

At first the term exo-electron was used to designate the electrons which, without any external supply of energy such as heat, are released from a newly polished or cast metal surface because an exothermic process (ie a process involving the release of heat) occurs on the metallic surface. An example of this is the effect of oxygen on new metal surfaces. The exo-electrons generate very little energy, approximately the equivalent of one volt.

Apart from mechanical processing such as pulverisation, non-metallic surfaces can be encouraged to emit exo-electrons mainly by subjecting them to radiation with ultra-violet light or X-rays and particularly by exposing them to gamma rays. The resulting spontaneous emission is similar to luminescence, if the temperature is constant.

At the Brunswick institute the spontaneous and stimulated emission of exo-electrons at constant temperatures between -190 degrees centigrade and 600 degrees centigrade has been investigated. At certain temperatures all substances capable of emitting exo-electrons display characteristic properties.

In various branches of industry attempts are now being made to introduce pulverisation processes based on the Kramer effect. On the basis of exo-electron radiation after X-ray radiation, changes occasioned by chemical processes can now be exactly measured.

Measuring techniques based on the Kramer effect are now used in industrial laboratories for investigating catalysis and surfaces reactions. Recent medical research has shown that the presence of silicone, that notorious powdery deposit, in the lungs can be established and in certain cases measured by means of the exo-electron principle.

By applying the Kramer effect, unusual pictures can also be produced. If, for example, a cog wheel is placed on a plaster of Paris base and both are subjected to X-rays, a "latent" picture is produced. Having removed the plaster mould a Geiger counter can be applied to the object particularly successfully.

A neon lamp connected to the Geiger counter lights up, if the counter detects an electron. As the counter registers all the discharged electrons, a dense point appears on the photographic paper whenever an electron is emitted from the plaster mould.

Thus, in the end a distinct black-and-white picture emerges, which is produced by subjecting the plaster mould to radiation and investigating electron emission. So photographs are produced using plaster of Paris instead of the normal silver chloride.

But the production of X-ray pictures on a plaster of Paris base, made visible through the optically stimulated emission of exothermic electrons, is only one of the numerous possible uses of this method.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 May 1969)



Professor Johannes Kramer

(Photo: privat)

Academic values must come first in reform

In the opinion of Gerhard Stoltenberg, Federal Minister of Scientific Research, academic considerations must take precedence over mere democratisation of universities when it comes to introducing university reforms.

Addressing the Founders' Association for Federal Republic Science, Stoltenberg said that it shoud be recognised more clearly than hitherto that the primary task of universities was to achieve the highest standards of teaching and research.

Discussions of reforms should be more concerned with academic quality and the efficiency of a re-organised university "if the much-heralded educational catastrophe is not to descend upon us in the guise of allegedly progressive statements."

Stoltenberg said that in 1968 total expenditure on science including university teaching amounted to 14,000 million Marks. Of this sum, 11,000 million Marks or 2.1 per cent of the gross national product was spent on research and development in the narrower sense. Aiming to increase this percentage to 2.5 by 1972/73 was not, therefore, unrealistic.

In 1968 the Founders' Association for Federal Republic Science provided 28.5 million Marks for scientific purposes. At the Association's annual conference in Wiesbaden, which was attended by Federal President Heinrich Lübke, the deputy chairman, Dr Hellmut Ley, said that income from donations in 1968 (approximately 32 million Marks) had exceeded the previous year's figure by 2.6 million Marks.

But this improvement should not be allowed to conceal the fact that income from donations "still does not correspond either to the resources of the industrial firms and organisations represented in the Founders' Association or to the industrial potential which exists in the Federal Republic."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 May 1969)

Medium term plan for aeronautics

In the near future the Federal government is to draw up a comprehensive, medium-term plan for aeronautical research. At the annual conference of the Federal Republic space and aeronautical industry, the Minister of Scientific Research, Gerhard Stoltenberg, said that the point of these efforts would be to bring about "even more effective coordination between future research projects."

Soltenberg also welcomed the merger of the two aeronautical firms, Messerschmidt-Bölkow and Hamburger Flugzeugbau, which now operate under the name Messerschmidt-Bölkow-Blohm, and announced details of the space research projects which will be undertaken in this country during the next few years.

The Minister assured his audience that the government attached special significance to the space research and aeronautical industry and regarded it as one of the key industries for technological progress.

But comparisons with other European nations showed that in this country "a cautious, but systematic expansion of the development and manufacturing potential was needed if the Federal Republic was to remain competitive." For this reason the government intended to produce an overall, medium-term plan for aeronautical as well as space research.

Frankfurter Allgemeine ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Stoltenberg went on to urge the government, as the customer, and the industry, as supplier, to introduce better management techniques. The main contractor should not be given the most responsible and advanced aspects of a project whilst sub-contractors were fobbed off with the remaining, inferior tasks; the aim must be to distribute contracts to the appropriate branch of the industry.

Referring to the prosposed Federal Republic space research projects, Stoltenberg said that during this year details of a satellite to research into the intensity and distribution of gamma quanta would be settled.

The satellite could then be launched in 1973. In 1971 work is to start on a satellite which will be used for extra-terrestrial research and in particular for measuring the temperature of the atmosphere, photographing cloud formations and the earth's surface and for geological investigations. This satellite is due to be launched in 1974. Other national projects are not possible at the moment.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 May 1969)

THE ECONOMY

More protection needed for the consumer

Organised consumers' appeals to state and public were drowned in the discussion of currency problems. This was more than an accident, since it pointed out the limits of the "concept-orientated and rational consumer policy" propagated by the chairman of the association of consumer unions (AGV).

Such policy, it is now clear, can only function effectively when it is part of the general *concept of economic policy*. The consequences of putting a revaluation of the Mark out of proportion – imported price increases being one of the worst – could deal the consumer a harder blow than many apparent flaw in legislation governing competition.

In this vital issue the consumer unions want to play the lead role. Their second most important demand is: representation for consumers at government level.

Representatives of cooperative consumer organisations, one of the group in the AGV, are even demanding a Federal office for the protection of Federal Republic consumers. "Viable" representation is also demanded in the European Communities.

Professor Schiller's State Secretaries Arndt and Dohnanyi, deputising for the Minister of Economic Affairs at Consumer Week meetings, revealed what EEC agricultural policy is costing this country's consumers. Nevertheless, however high the cost, joint European agricultural policy, *which is jointly financed by Federal Republic consumers*, in the shop and in inland revenue offices, is an instrument of political integration of the Six.

It is indeed an expensive instrument, gauging it by its economic value. Representatives of consumer unions are at liberty to discuss its economic worth, but *they are not entitled to judge its political* value or non-value. This is the task of the government.

How could a Federal office for the protection of consumers really protect consumers? On this point opinions are divided. The only conviction to which everyone subscribes is that the consumer *is the weaker social factor in the market* and therefore needs protection.

On closer examination, however, this is a belief from which officials deduce their claim to having been summoned to defend the interests of "the" consumer. Officials in the unions associated in the AGV can hardly claim such a sweeping assignment, since the number of union *members is too small to be truly representative.*

The fact is that consumers in this country are reluctant to organise. This too was again apparent during the second Consumer Week.

This is of little concern, however, to consumer union leaders. They are idealists who hope to gain the support of twenty million households in the Federal Republic, as their counterparts in America, Britain and Scandinavia have succeeded in mobilising consumers in a mass effort to protct themselves.

Until this day dawns in the Federal Republic they intened to plod ahead on their own and with the financial support of the government. Their funds are very low, however. Government contributions for pupose of instruction and enlightenment amount to little more than charity.

Even if the budgets were plumper, however, the unions would hardly succeed in developing the critical faculties of consumers to the extent that they would begin to compare prices and quality, take note of weight declarations or withhold their custom in the event of price increases.

The unions' admission that the tests carried out on consumer goods were "greatly exaggerated" in their importance for the consumer underlines this. These tests cost millions.

Understandably, the officials are inclined to be aggressive when their campaigns and appeals are ignored. This is unfortunate since such an emotional approach hampers essential legislative corrections to the market – for example, in hire purchase legislation and other laws dealing with weights and measures, unfair competition, and also with regard to price control for proprietary articles and advertising.

The consumer unions must realise what traders and the consumer goods industry have realised long ago – "the" consumer does not exist. Indeed, with higher incomes the possibility also increases that consumers can behave "unreasonably."

This is also the reason why psychological aspects of marketing are gaining in importance, especially in the systematic research of the motivations of consumer buying. The puritanical view that consumers should approach the market with a view to their own advantage and the welfare of the national economy is



hardly compatible with a society of relative superabundance, in which manufacturers and dealers must work at awakening desires and wishes to create demand.

The consumer could be his own best protection if he had an adequate knowledge of economic affairs. His ignorance is the main problem.

This was obvious at the second Consumer Week. The Wickert Institute showed in a comprehensive survey that the vast majority of the population opposed a revaluation of the Mark. Probably very few knew what a revaluarion meant.

This emotional reaction to the question of revaluation may have swayed many politicians in their final decision – although the reaction may *have* come from pure ignorance of *the* problem.

The results of the Consumer Week suggest that we can dispense with a Federal office for the protection of the consumer. What needs to be done, however, is to inform the community thoroughly of the workings of the economy and the political decisions that must be made in the interests of the economy as a whole.

This would be the best basis for a consumer policy. (DIE WELT, 12 May 1969)

Foreign investments unalarming



The Bundesbank makes an interesting contribution in its latest monthly report to the never-ending discussion of a real or alleged sell-aut of this country's industry to foreign interests. The report concludes that the influence of foreign capital in this country is no cause for alarm.

Foreign holdings in industrial plant in the Federal Republic were valued last year at 18,000 million Marks, according to the Bundesbank. This was 4,400 million Marks in excess of the 1965 figure.

From 1966 to 1968, however, foreign companies spent 6,000 million Marks on affiliates and the acquisition of block holdings in this country. A nominal increase of 1,600 million Marks was recorded in 1966 and 1967, the 1968 figure dropping to 1,200 million Marks.

The Bundesbank writes that this country's capital holdings abroad are far below the level of foreign interests in the Federal Republic. For the first time last year, however, the level of domestic investment abroad slightly exceeded that of foreign investment in this country.

Ninety per cent of foreign capital in the Federal Republic is in the hands of joint-stock campanies, according to available statistics. Foreign interests in domestic joint-stock companies last year were valued nominally at 16,500 million Marks. Holdings in 349 public limited companies accounted for 7,500 million, holdings in 4,097 imited (GmbH registered) for 9,000 million Marks.

About 18.7 per cent of total capital holdings of Federal Republic joint-stock companies is in foreign hands, compared to 17.3 per cent at the end of 1865.

Foreign companies are mainly interested in large companies. Petroleum companies head the list of foreign investors with holdings of 3,700 million Marks.

Almost two-thirds of the net increase over the past three years in the volume of foreign capital – 2,700 million from 4,400 million Marks – accrued from American investments. Most of this increase, 1,800 million Marks resulted from capital increments of American subsidiaries, the remainder from new affiliates or initial purchases of holdings.

American companies' share of overall foreign investments in the Federal Republic increased over the last three years to 44 per cent, compared to 38 per cent in 1965. By the end of last year, American holdings in this country were worth 7,900 million Marks.

The Netherlands came second with 2,400 million Marks.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 May 1969)

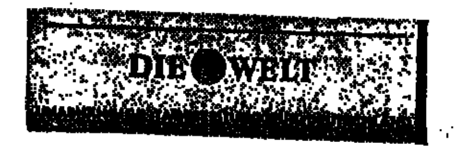
Agricultural policy and the wider consequences of revaluation

Talk of a revaluation of the Mark has impressed upon farmers in this country that they hold a special position in Europe. They represent the only economic area in the Common Market that is fully integrated. Prices are calculated on a unit basis, a European semi-currency, in a manner of speaking.

According to the EEC statutes, the farmer receives basically the corresponding value in gold or dollars for the prices his produce fetches under EEC market regulation. Prices are quoted in Marks in the Federal Republic only as a guide.

This procedure is sound enough as long as the present parity between the Mark and the dollar is maintained. A revaluation would upset the balance. Agricultural prices would fall, since the value of the dollar declines in relation to the Mark.

Those who are acquainted with the position of the farmers know what a



general decline in prices would mean in the case of produce coming under present market regulations. A revaluation of one per cent would entail losses of 200 million Marks, accoring to the experts.

What can be done? Direct subsidies from the public purse have not proved satisfactory in the past. How should they be distributed? This is only one of the problems connected with state grants.

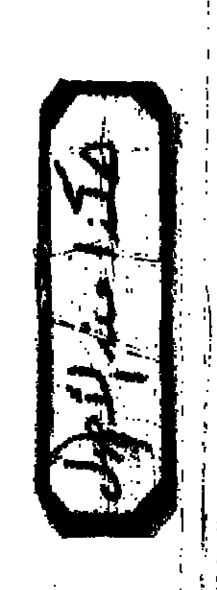
The government is considering other ways of compensating the farmers – for example, by means of an added value tax arrangement, in the event of a revaluation. It is proposed that sales tax rates should be increased to producer levels and that cost prices should be reduced in the event of a revaluation, allowing farmers concessions with the revenue office.

If a product sells for 100 Marks, plus five Marks added value tax, before revaluation, it would would fetch only 95 Marks after a revaluation of five per cent. If the added value tax is increased, however, in accordance with the drop in prices, total proceeds would amount to 105 Marks.

Since the farmer could deduct only five per cent of his tax due on the basis of the present pre-tax deduction system, the new arrangement would enable him to clip off another five per cent. This is an attractive proposition.

It is, in fact, a tempting solution. Its only disadvange is that limits must be set to proposed revaluation rates if a uniform added value tax rate, at present, eleven per cent, is to be maintained.

(DIE WELT, 10 May 1969)



COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Successful packing industry exhibition in Düsseldorf



Interpack, the fifth international exhibition of packing machines and material has come to an end in Düsseldorf. Blessed by sunshine, the event was a great success. Indeed, given its present dimensions, *Interpack* can be said to be the largest and most significant event of its kind in the world.

To a great extent, the exhibition is a mammoth demonstration of machines and machines- to-be before an expert public. Half of the 100,000 visitors to *Interpack* came from abroad.

This fact alone indicates the leading position of this country's 250 small and medium-size manufacturers of packing machines on the international markets. Since 1963, in a mere five years, production in this highly specialised industrial sector increased by sixty per cent exports climbing by over 100 per cent.

After America and before Great Britain therefore the Federal Republic has been a front-runner in the market for packing machines. More than fifty per cent of the 250 companies mentioned above make processing and auxiliary machines for packing material.

Finding the appropriate packing machine for certain functions and material seemed relatively simple until now. But this is no longer so in an expanding market.

The range of products, functions and material is increasing at such a rate that more and more special packing units are required. Hans Malitz, director of *Interpack*, mentioned three hazards with which manufacturers of packing machinery must reckon:

Are investments in new machines economical in view of precipitous market development?

Can the market for innovations be expanded?

Do ever-increasing packing standards and requirements guarantee continuity of production?

Higher productivity therefore is the prime objective not only of the makers of packing machines but also by the packers themselves. According to Ulrich Bauder, president of the *Interpack* committee, the first consideration in future will be the interplay of packing material, content and mechanical production methods. In each case it must be known how packing costs stand in proportion to overall costs.

The implication is clear. Not only will there be a demand for machines but for complete solutions to packing problems. Heading the sales charts therefore will be packing systems covering everything from efficient packing to advertising images.

This makes clear the progress packing methods have made from mere wrapping to advertising. Consumers approach the mounting flood of wrappers and containers with a kind of "love-hate," said Bauder on the opening day of the exhibition.

Synthetics are showing the most dynamic spurt in this sector. The most common raw materials are polymerisation palstics.

After paper, cardboard, iron and metal, synthetic packing has moved up into third place before glass and wood. One of the leading manufacturers in this field, accounting for twenty per cent of the market, is Hüls in Marl. Last year, 375,000 tons – or 14.4 per cent of overall consumption of synthetic material - were used for packing purposes.

On the basis of these Hüls figures, however, it would be wrong to place too much emphasis on synthetic material as a substitute for conventional material. Wood and metal have yielded in great measure to the synthetic storm, but paper and cardboard have held their own with 48 per cent of production totals. Refining processes have contributed greatly to the strong position of these conventional materials.

Besides refinement, rationalisation and expertise have played a vital role in the packing sector. International cooperation has received great stimulus in two spheres – in the production of fluted cardboard and transparent sheet, an extensive branch of the industry.

The Eurobox group has been in existence since 1964, comprising members from ten European countries. Cipcel, the international transparent sheet committee, has determined the trend in this sector.

At Düsseldorf's *Interpack* therefore synthetic packing methods, one of the most dynamic sections, and neatly refined packing systems with paper and cardboard dominated the range of exhibits. Another remarkable feature of the exhibition was manufacturers' reluctance to tackle the problems of waste and garbage disposal.

Prices were fairly firm, but this is one topic that will occupy the experts for some time to come. *Interpack* ended end on May 16. (DIE WELT, 14 May 1969)

(Photo: Dornier)

Plane pioneer Claude Dornier is 85

More than fifty years ago Professor Claude Dornier designed the world's first all-metal aeroplane. Between the two World Wars his flying boats carried the reputation of German technology over the seas.

Professor Dornier celebrated his 85th birthdy on 17 May in his home in Switzerland.

As a 26-year-old engineer, Claude Dornier first worked on airships for Count von Zeppelin. At the beginning of the First World War he was assigned the task of designing an all-metal flying boat. This was to be precursor of the later famous wal series which opened transatlantic routes for postal and passenger service.

Dormier's huge fifty-ton flying boat, Do X, was a world-wide sensation.

After the Second World War and the ten-year ban on aeroplane production in this country, Dornier's company concentrated on developing short and vertical take-off planes. This is the only large company in this sector to have preserved its independence in the Federal Republic.

No important decision in the Dornier concern is still taken with consulting the senior Dornier. (DIE WELT, 13 May 1969)

Value of giant mergers leaves aviation cold



The aviation industry in the Federal Republic was not easily convinced that concentration of resources into greater production units is the only sound basis of future development. Recently, two new partners have appeared on the scene and a merger are in the news.

Vereinigten Flugtechnischen Werke in Bremen and the Dutch concern, Fokker, are planning a joint future.

Both companies have considerable assets to pool. Fokker have defended remarkable position in the highly contested market for passenger aeroplanes. Their Fellowships and Friedenships are being flown throughout the world and have a good reputation.

The Bremen company is at present developing the short-distance jet VFW 614, which holds great promise. The VFW are also engaged in poineer research in the field of vertical take-off.

This is a good basis for collaboration in planning and construction on an international level in Europe. The real advantages of the merger will be apparent when new joint European projects are assigned.

(NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, 13 May 1969)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Opel re-vamps marketing techniques

A few years ago Hans Mersheimer, 64, technical director of Opel, used to amuse himself by shooting past Porsches and BMWs in a compact Opel Rekord saloon fitted with an eight-cylinder General Motors engine (GM are the majority shareholders in Opel).

As far as Mersheimer was concerned this was not to be the last word. "We'll show them," he said and concentrated on building fast cars with a sporting look to interest younger motorists in Opel and foster marque loyalty among older Opel owners.

When the first models in the new style, designed with GM assistance, were unveiled motoring correspondents were allowed to try them out on the motordrome, Opel's top-security proving ground near Hanau.

The motordrome, they learned, was banked so steeply that test vehicles could speed round the track at 140 miles an hour without the slightest danger of spinning over the top.

What, they wondered, was it all about? At the 1965 Frankfurt motor show they saw the first experimental sports car. It looked for all the world like the design study of an Italian stylist. The idea was to test the public's reaction. The general public showed willing.

In September 1968 Opel began to market the new sports model in a GT 1100 and a GT 1900 version. It was a genuine sports car at a moderate price. Since then there has been no doubt that Opel are determined to improve their image, that of a manufacturer of staid saloons.

In those days the average Opel had a large engine that developed precious little in the way of horse power. It could be driven for 120,000 miles virtually without using the gearbox.

Within a very short space of time Opel succeeded in refurbishing their image, winning over customers who would otherwise no doubt have been sold on the idea of buying a BMW or even a small Mercedes. Opel's strategy was three-pronged:

—The new Opels had souped-up engines by Opel standards, a roomy body and up-to-date rear axles, bringing them technically into line with competitors in the field.

— They were made avail able in a wide range of versions so that every customer could make what as far as possible was a personal choice. Computerised production was, however, more than a match for dealers, who had some difficulty in working out the many combinations possible.

—They were also costed to work out less expensive than comparable models from other manufacturers but not to look cheaper.

In order to attract customers the Opel strategists included a number of red-hot models in the programme. There was the Rallye-Kadett, a Kadett coupe in a matt black finish available with either a 1,100 or a 1,900 cc engine.

The ninety-horse-power 1,900 cc version has proved extremely popular. It is capable of a top speed of over 100 miles an hour and is not lacking in comfort either. This model was the marketing strategists' decoy to attract customers to the Kadett and Olympia ranges.

Then there was the Commodore. By means of slight changes to the bodywork of the Rekord and the gentle hum of the six-cylinder engine under the bonnet Opel succeeded with the Commodore in creating what no Opel had ever before managed: the sex appeal otherwise radiated by cars such as the BMW or the Lancia.

The Commodore and the Kadett helped Opel over a sticky patch. Thanks to these two models the firm weathered the 1967-68 economic recession far better than Volkswagen and Ford, both of which suffered badly. The Commodore also attracted potential buyers to the Rekord range, which, with its nippy four-cylinder engine, can also be driven in a sporting manner.

Opel's coupes, given sporting names such as Sprint or GS, are sports models but the ace in the pack is the Opel GT. A low-lying, hard-sprung sports car, the GT is designed for two engines: the 1,100-cc engine of the Kadett coupe and the 1900 S engine of the most powerful Rekord.

The more powerful of the two reaches 115 miles an hour but can only accommodate two people and a moderate amount of luggage. Fuel consumption is not spectacular either.

But the Opel GT, which was an immediate success by virtue of a most attractive design package, was dogged by bad luck. First the production date had to be postponed because the bodywork, ordered in France, did not arrive in time as a result of the May 1968 unrest. Then, when it finally did materialise, Ford's of Cologne unveiled the Capri.

Initially the Capri did not worry Opel. Ford, the reckoned, had not brought out a sports car, merely a pale imitation of one. But only stylists despaired of the concept, the general public were delighted. Even so, Ford owe much of the Capri success to taking over and adapting Opel's marketing concept.

—The Capri is also available in a wide variety of models, with engines ranging between 1,300 and 2,300 cc.

—The Capri driver can take three passengers and a reasonable amount of luggage with him.

-The cheapest Capri costs 6,993 Marks and the dearest is still below the 10,000 Mark level. The Opel GT range starts at 10,767 Marks, the price of the GT II. The large GT is not to be had for less than 11,877 Marks.

The Capri will lose the GT a number of potential buyers but by no means all. It may well one day prove far more dangerous competition to the more sporting Kadett models, as it is only one step further up the price ladder from the higher echelons of the Kadett range.

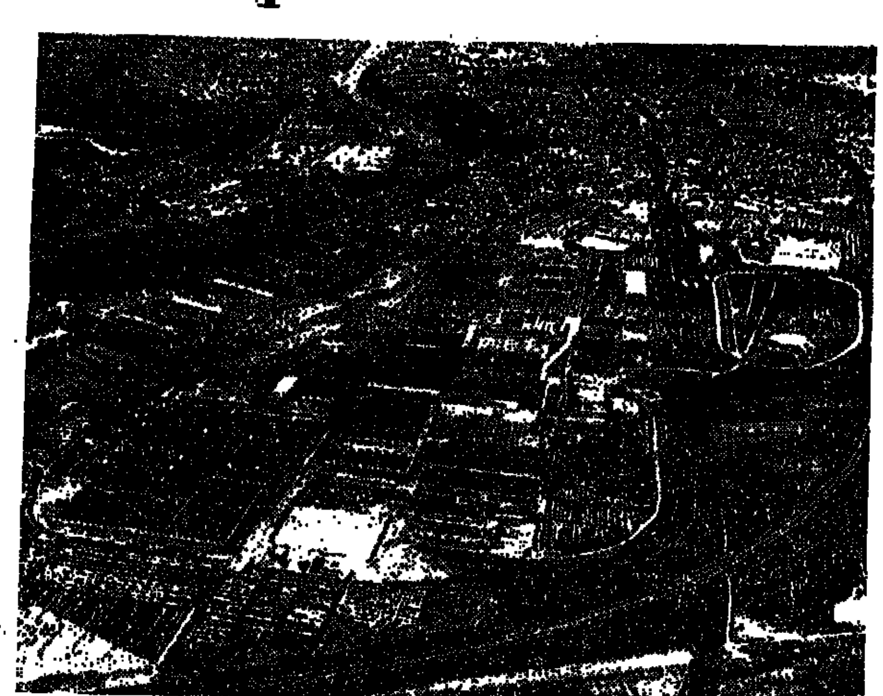
Buyers are still not too sure whether or not to believe the two subsidiaries of the major American manufacturers but both have now opted to keep their models unchanged except in detail for a number of years, a policy that is of crucial importance for the European market, even though American marketing specialists can hardly credit the idea.

Sales figures in this country make it clear which of the two gained top marks for marketing last year. Opel, with its 272,462 units, were marginally down on the 1967 figure of 276,271, a drop that was in any case mainly due to the abandoning of the Admiral and Diplomat ranges.

Ford sales fell from 233,282 to 195,701 units. Despite the Capri, which was originally to have been christened Colt, Opel managers are satisfied with their policy line. Technology, they say, discovered, sells well.

Herr Petersen, Opel's engine specialist, who ironed out the hitches in Opel's new electronic fuel-injection system in double quick time, is enthusiastic. Technology, he reckons, is no trouble at all. We are as good as the rest at the very least. When all is said and done, we all learnt from the same men in the thirties. He is right, too. To this very day the engineering aces of motor manufacturers in this country learnt their trade in pre-war Dresden and Stuttgart.

(DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT, 11 May 1969)



An aerial view of the Opel works at Rüsselsheim. Total plant area is 590 acres. Area covered by buildings is 8,417,300 square feet with 13,088,00 square feet given over to work shops. (Photo: Opel/Freig. Reg. Präs. Darmstadt Nr. 326/68 WR 174/68)

Stuttgart's airport employs noise inspection system

Complaints about aircraft noise are on the increase and there are plans for a noise abatement act to bring about a swift improvement in the situation. Electronics manufacturers are busy developing the necessary equipment.

Hewlett-Packard of Böblingen have developed the most up-to-the-minute aircraft noise inspection system in the world and doing so in the shortest time imaginable. It has been in service at Echterdingen airport, Stuttgart, since April and was unveiled to the Press on 12 May.

This measuring system, complete with digital computer for continuous and effective evaluation of results, costs only 361,000 Marks and is designed specifically with future regulations and specifications in mind.

Up to eighty measuring points can be linked to the computer, which makes the system an economic proposition for towns with medium-sized airports.

Unlike the outdated Frankfurt device of 1964, the only installation of its kind in the country, the Hewlett-Packard system offers the advantage of providing decipherable documentation of the automatically evaluated results via teleprinter.

The incorporation of a computer in the system is necessary, the management explain, because there are no standard figures for aircraft noise available. By the end of May, after eight weeks in operation, sufficient data will have been compiled for Stuttgart airport.

In order to guarantee reliable figures the measuring stations at Stuttgart are arranged in series, parallel to each other. In this way the normal noise level of each kind of aircraft taking off or landing at Stuttgart can be estimated. These standard levels will be handed over to the noise abatement officer when he takes over on 1 July.

The measuring system will enable the noise abatement officer to provide proof that the pilot of any given aircraft has exceeded the noise limit, whereupon a fine can be imposed. (At the moment the maximum fine that can be imposed, and then only when the offence is proved to have taken place, is a mere five Marks.)

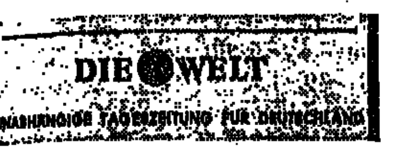
The arrangement of measuring stations in pairs also makes it possible to determine whether the pilot has made his run-in too high or too low, has deviated from the prescribed approach route or has reduced engine thrust.

One conclusion has already been reached at Stuttgart. Aircraft noise at the airport is well below the level proposed in a draft noise abatement Bill.

(Hannoversche Presse, 13 May 1969)

■ SCIENCE

Flexible light cables aid medicine and technology



Not only ordinary light can be bent round corners in the latest light cables. Using new procedures and materials developed by Schott of Mainz it will soon be possible to guide ultra-violet light from a source to an otherwise inaccessible object. The chief immediate beneficiary is the world of medicine.

The ability of flexible light cables to guide light waves round corners is based on the principle of total reflection. When light passes from one medium to another which is optically less dense, that is from glass to air, the ray is bent away from the normal.

If the incident ray meets the surface at such an angle that the refracted ray must be bent away at an angle of more than ninety degrees the light cannot emerge at all and is totally internally reflected. This principle has been utilised for many years in binoculars and single-lens reflex cameras, for instance. It is common to many items of optical equipment.

Much the same happens in a light fibre, of which there are usually several hundred or even thousands bundled together in a cable only millimetres thick.

A ray of light injected at one end of the fibre is continually reflected back into the centre, rebounding off the fibre skin, which consists of a transparent material with a slightly lower index of refraction. The ray is thus virtually imprisoned in the fibre and can only emerge at the other end, where it "hits" the free end of the fibre at more or less a right angle.

Flexible light cables based on this principle are already used for a wide range of technological purposes. Using cables of this kind a large number of dashboard instruments can be illuminated from a single source of light. Light from a powerful and bulky source can also be channelled to an object that is otherwise difficult to reach.

The latter use opens up a wide range of possibilities in medicine. With the aid of light cables hollow human organs such as the stomach, the bladder and even the heart can be intensively illuminated from a source of light outside the body and by means of miniaturised optical devices and the same principle the doctor can take a look at the organ in question and make a diagnosis.

Yet with the materials used so far microscopic faults resulted in a relatively high loss of light, with the result that cables of only a few metres in length served any useful purpose.

Using the latest procedures and materials, however, cables of up to fifteen metres (approximately fifty feet) in length can be cut off the drum and perform as satisfactorily as shorter lengths.

Above all, according to *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau*, Schott technologists have now succeeded in manufacturing quartz fibres, which unlike conventional glass can also channel ultra-violet light, rays of a shorter wave-length.

Ultra-violet light can thus now be channelled into the body. When the patient has swallowed certain fluorescent agents ultra-violet light shows up certain diseased tissues.

(DIE WELT, 14 May 1969)

Eldo satellite research at Brunswick

Research scientists at Brunswick's Aerospace Research Institute have for the past few weeks been involved in a major contribution to international space technology. White-coated workers in the department of aircraft construction have been engaged in testing metals, plastics and lubricants under space conditions.

Material-testing of this kind has not in the past been possible in this country. Facilities of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration have had to be utilised. From now on a great deal of the test work for Europe's Eldo satellite programme can be carried out in Brunswick.

At the moment work is being carried out on the friction between two metal surfaces in a vacuum. The problems involved affect every single ball or roller bearing in a spacecraft.

An artificial vacuum is created in a large metal bell jar. While powerful pumps draw off the air a metal plug of test alloy rubs against a rotating titanium disc. Important conclusions as to the optimum alloys can be reached from the resulting changes in the material and the coefficient of friction.

The practical outcome of these trials are new materials with a level of friction that is nearly constant on Earth and in a vacuum. One of them is teflon, which, progressive housewives will recall, is the material used to surface non-stick frying pans.

Soon there will also be a miniature sun at Brunswick, a device that emits the same radiation as the Sun. Apart from the United States (and, no doubt, the Soviet Union) it will be the only one of its kind in the world. It will be used to test durability under ultra-violet radiation.

(Hannoversche Presse, 13 May 1969)

■ CITY PROFILE

Flensburg – old and new

Flensburg is a city with approximately 100,000 inhabitants and a further 23,000 people in the surrounding area. Town planning for the region estimates that by 1980 the urban area will have 145,000 persons with an increase of 10,000 job places.

Flensburg is a harbour, lying at the end of Flensburg Fjord only about 20 miles away from the Baltic and only a little further distant from the North Sea-coast. The Flensburg Fjord passes through hilly and very beautiful scenery and is busy with shipping of all kinds. The Fjord is popular for sailing. The southern coast of the Fjord is a part of Federal Republic territory. The northern coast is Danish.

Flensburg lies only about three miles from the Danish frontier, and the frontier authorities on both sides record annually as many as 20 million crossings either way.

The city is situated in the most northerly quarter of this country and of the Common Market, which brings with it advantages and disadvantages. Within the confines of the city and within its outlying areas there are respectively 41 and 27 Scandinavian companies operating, able to exploit the advantages of the EEC area.

The city of Flensburg has attracted Scandinavian businessman on a number of accounts – the atmoshere of the city, its proximity to head office and the labour reserves the area has.

Danfoss, the Danish firm, is the leading Scandinavian firm operating in the city and the firm with the second largest production facilities in the city. Shipbuilding is the city's main industrial undertaking – the Flensburg Schiffsbau. This shipyard, along with subsidiary yards nearby employs approximately 2,000 workers, and is capable of building ships up to 40,000 BRT.

There are something like 110 small businesses operating in the city's limits, producing a large range of goods. These include small vessels, compressors, valves, complete heating and cooling equipment and special machinery used in the manufacture of paper. The list of products goes on to include optical equipment, ready -made clothing, cutlery, rubber goods and rum.



A view of Flensburg's charming harbour (Photo: Gerd Remmer)

Because the city is located near the zonal border it benefits from Federal aid for businesses that are prepared to operate in the area. Credit facilities are also available for businessmen who wish to set up operations in the city.

Flensburg can be called a most important merchant city and one that is rapidly growing as regards industrial development.

In 1200 in the middle of the dukedom of Schleswig-Holstein the city of Flensburg was founded. The social set-up took the form of a brotherhood, the "Knudsgilde" that was a forerunner of the Hanseatic League. The population included Frisians, Germans and Danes, all working together peacefully as merchants in this frontier area between Denmark and Germany.

In 1284 the newly-established settlement was given a city's charter. The city became important in the Scandinavian trade and was for a long time the most important shipping port in Prussia. The city's history was closely associated with the dukedom of Schleswig-Holstein, about which the British premier, Lord Palmerston once said: "The Schleswig-Holstein Question is so complicated that only three men understood it. One was Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, who is now dead, the second was a professor who has gone mad and the third is myself and I would rather forget it."

Today Flensburg along with Kiel and Lübeck are the three centres of development in Federal state planning in Schleswig-Holstein.

During the past twenty years as many as 16,000 new houses and flats have been built in Flensburg. The city itself includes a sort of dormitory town that is made up of 3,300 flats and houses and this is to be extended.

Considerable improvements have been effected and are planned for the city's supplies of electricity, gas and water as well as traffic improvements, modernisation of the harbour and increased storage capacity for merchandise.

Improvements in communications are also planned which already include the harbour and railways as well as the motorways that stretch through Flensburg to Stockholm and Oslo to the north and to Lisbon in the south. It is proposed to build an airport, modernising the present air-strip. A new highway between Flensburg and Kiel is already under construction.

Flensburg is the second largest garrison town in the Federal Republic and there is also the naval training depot at Mürwik which is well known. The city is also the centre of a number of Federal authorities in particular the traffic office, well known to any person who drives a car and particularly well known to anyone who has had trouble concerning traffic offences.

The city's many-faceted cultural and artistic activities are also worthy of notice.

There are at the moment within the city's limits 49 schools, of which 41 are German schools and eight are Danish. Among these schools are trade schools, a teachers training college and an engineering college. There has been considerbale discussion of setting up in Flensburg a technical university in the future.

The city has two museums and there are three large libraries as well as a central library for books in Danish.

The city has a theatre which offers performances the whole year through. The programmes include operas, operettas and straight plays. There is symphony orchestra of high quality. Concerts are given in the Large Hall which seats 1,500 people.

Occasionally the orchestra plays with the Danish Sonderburg Island Orchestra - Sonderburg is close by. Arrangements exist for the exchange of conductors of the two orchestras. This cooperation is very symptomatic of the cooperation that exists between the peoples on either side of the frontier.

There exists here in its best form cooperation between two peoples, the Danes and the Germans on either side of the frontier.

On the Flensburg city council, which totals 39, ten places are reserved for members to represent the Danish community. Everything possible is done to ensure that community harmony is maintained and that minority interests are given a hearing in the city's management.

Flensburg is on friendly terms with the other Danish towns that are just over the border, Sonderburg, Apenrade, Hadersleben and Tondern. Every two years, on alternate sides of the border, the towns celebrate a Danish-German Day. During these festivities local officials are able to exchange views on economic, scientific, artistic and political matters.

Theres is a great deal of truth in the view that Flensburg is not only a border city but also a bridge city. It is a model of what can be done on the international scene as regards cooperation.

(VORWÄRTS, 8 May 1969)

Berliners are afraid of the dark

West Berliners are among the most timorous citizens in the Federal Republic, according to a survey carried out by the Allansbach Institute for market research and public opinion polls.

To the question: "To many people it is not the done thing to return home late at night. Do you agree or disagree with this view? "

Every other person questioned in West Berlin was of the view that it was a bad thing to be out after dark. The average view in the Federal Republic as a whole is that two out of every five people disapprove of being out at night.

As could be expected 37 out of every hundred women questioned had anxieties at being out of doors after dark. Only every third woman said that she had no fears at being away from home after dark.

The men were rather more courageous. Only three per cent expressed any kind of persistent anxiety at being away from home after nightfall and twelve per cent said that they had fears

Apprehension was most strongly expressed by people over the age of 60 and, according to the survey, by people in the more general strata of society.

For the past year the Allensbach Institute has been working on this question of public safety and it is apparent that the crime increase has become a more serious cause for alarm than any social or political problémo that might beset the country. (Frankfurter Neue Presse, 23 April 1969)

Traffic office expands

The central traffic office of the Federal Republic in Flensburg, controlling all registrations and licences in the whole of the country cannot complain that it has too little work to do. This office receives reports of all the traffic offences that occur in the country, a routine that has been operative for more than twelve years.

Now the ten-storey building in Flensburg that has accommodated this traffic offences department is no longer big enough. Running parallel with the work that has do be done for the more than ... million vehicles that are registered in the country is the work that has to be done for the thousands of traffic offences that occur.

There are more than 850 officials working in the Flensburg central registry to deal with the daily routine problems. There are more than three million people in this country registered as "persistent" traffic offenders - that means more than three offences. Each day as many as 2,000 police reports have to be processed and approvals for vehicle road-worthiness dealt with.

It is now proposed to extend the already giant building. It is not proposed to lay the cost of these additional facilities so urgently needed on the backs of tax-paying road-users. Finances will be provided from Federal resources.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 May 1969)

Crowded living conditions

Approximately three million people – almost five per cent of this country's total population, – live in either crowded or limited accommodation, according to a report recently issued by the Bonn Institute that deals with town planning and modern living conditions.

Accomodation is considered to be "overcrowded" when more than two people live in one room.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 14 May 1969)

■ SPORT

Roundup of sports that excit the world's fans

Suddenly millions of people were entranced by the drama of a game they had imagined to be only a harmless leisure activity. Ping pong, and the name denotes the degree of setiousness attached to it, graduated into table tennis, an inexorable contest, a fascinating sport.

Table tennis wizards performed sheer magic with their beast of a ball, often fighting, the general public realised, to the point of nervous exhaustion.

This realisation was due solely to the table tennis world championships in Munich ice rink and the outside broadcast camera teams that covered the competition. This country's outstanding performance was, of course, an additional factor.

The hero with which the general public could identify, the man who was playing for this contry, was there for the asking. For a few days at least, Eberhard Schlèr was nearly as popular as footballer Uwe Seeler.

In the past table tennis has been felt to be a game virtually invented for Asians. For years either the Chinese or the Japanese have been world champions and the Koreans, particularly the North Koreans, have also done well.

Five years ago in Shanghai a table tennis tournament with displays of the most incredible artistry was seen by 10,000 spectators. In Munich even more people would have come on the last day if the Olympic ice rink had been able to accommodate more. As it was, there were only 6,500 spectators, but over the ten days of the championships as many people came as got to see a needle match in Federal league football.

Why some games suddenly become popular and others decline is one of the unsolved problems of sport psychology.

Rounders, which used to be quite widespread in this country, particularly among gymnasts, has now almost died out. In the United States, on the other hand, it is still holding its own as baseball, even though there can be no mistaking a certain stagnation.

Maybe baseball is on the point of suffering the same fate as rounders. American football, a variant of rugby, is already the most popular spectator sport.

The attempt to make soccer popular in the States, using TV, big names and show business professionalism, appears to have failed for the time being. People who claim to know reckon that the last word has not been spoken. In the East coast, particularly in New York, the round soccer ball is gaining in popularity in schools.

Two professional leagues and a wild band of foreigners were bound to fail. Youngsters must be forthcoming from the native country. Professionalism can only be the apex of a pyramid. One, two or at the most, three foreign players are permitted. They add flavour to the broth. Any more and football becomes football for football's sake and interest wanes.

Rugby, on the other hand, has yet to make the grade in this country, even though it is extremely popular in Britain and France. Why? Prejudice often plays a part. Anyone who has even played the game knows it is a fair game and nowhere near as dangerous as football. But the general public see rugby as nothing more than a glorified mass punch-up.

Tradition and knowledge of the game make a good deal of difference. Rugby and cricket are extremely popular in the former white dominions - South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, for instance.

Hockey has hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic supporters in India and Pakistan while in the rest of the world the numers of hockey enthusiasts are more modest, with the possible exception of girls schools in England. Tennis, for its part, has its Mecca in Australia, where the game is a school sport.

Outside the United States baseball has only really become popular in Japan, and radiates from Mexico across the Caribbean to Venezuela. In Europe and the remainder of South America no one wants to know; football is the game. Yet it is wrong to assume that football is the most popular ball game in the world. For more people play basketball.

Basketball is gradually gaining ground in this country, while in the United States it has long been one of the four major professional games(together with American football, baseball and ice hockey) and draws big crowds. At this year's national finals in Giessen 5,000 people wanted tickets. Unfortunately the hall held only 1,500.



Basketball - where speed and timing are all important (Photos: Nordbild)

Rugby - not as dangerous and brutal as the non-player would think

This game requiring almost no body play was invented at the end of the nineteenth century by a man by the name of James A. Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts, thought up in much the same way as volleyball was. In both something of the spirit of the YMCA, of which Naismith was a member, is evident.

Football's origins date back centuries, but outdoor handball was actually invented by the Germans and the Czechs. Yet outdoor handball lacks the ambivalence of the basketball, the equality of opportunity of attack and defence.

A powerful lunge at the basket by a defending player in the last tenth of a second of the game can work wonders, as 20,000 delighted spectators saw in the Olympic finals at Mexico City.

Outdoor handball, on the other hand, seems despite changes in the rules, to be doomed to a slow death. The game never really moves as the forwars are too strong. A phalanx of defenders gathers round the penalty area to fend off the opposing forwards and manages to do so only by a succession of fouls. The midfield remains empty.

Indoors the two penalty areas, the scenes of handball drama, have been brought closer together, The goal and penalty area are smaller and the boring midfield is missing altogether. Speed and any number of artistic throws can outplay even a solid mass of defenders.

Outdoor handball is, like faustball and rounders, one of the games promoted by the gymnastics movement in nineteenth century Germany, even though handball did not develop until the present century. Pallone, a predecessor of football, was played as long ago as the Baroque period.

Germany's gymnasts had less luck with their games than did the YMCA. Faustball too is losing ground to the YMCA's volleyball. Only indoor handball is flourishing. Forwards and defenders have equal chances, art and drama have been multiplied. Indoor handball even has its heroes, such as Hansi Schmidt or Bomber Lbking, and a game must have them. Indoor handball, unlike the outdoor variety, is telegenic too.

The gamut of games is still many--coloured. Thrills, artistry and heroism are everywhere the crucial ingredients of a riproaring mixture that fascinates millions.

It is easy enough to assume that this mass passion for games is a typical product of the present, neurotic century and is paralleled at best by the bread and circuses of Imperial Rome. In point of fact, game epidemics of this kind have assumed mass proportions everywhere at some time or other.

In Tang China the court and nobility were polo-mad. Any number of vases are still in existence that depict polo players of both sexes on horses with their tails kept short just as they are today to prevent them from getting in the way of the polo stick.

A Chinese emperor is reputed to have neglected the duties of government because of his passion for polo to such an extent that he was deposed.

In Mexico and Guatemala a large number of ancient American pitches are still in existence and more are continually coming to light. Mayas, Toltecs, Zapotecs and Aztecs were all sold on Poc- ta–Poc or Tlachtli, a game that started off as a cult and was a tough sport too. Montezuma had a game organised in Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City, in honour of Cortez.

Renaissance Europe also went in a big way for Jeu de Paume, or real tennis. There were any number of courts and in Henri IV's France incredible sums were bet on games. Despite a ban the bourgeois gambled as much on real tennis as did the nobility. (DIE ZEIT, 16 May 1969)

Aden	SA $ 0.05	Colombia	col. $ 1.—	Formosa	NT $ 5.—	Indonesia	Rp. 15.—	Malawi	11 d	Paraguay	G. 15.—	Sudan	PT 5.—
Afghanistan	Af 10.—	Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—	France	FF 0.60	Iran	Rl 10.—	Malaysia	M. $ 0.40	Peru	S. 3.50	Syria	£ S 0.50
Algeria	DA 0.60	Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—	Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Iraq	50 fils	Mali	FM 60.—	Philippines	P. phil 0.60	Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Angola	Esc 1.—	Costa Rica	C 0.85	Gambia	11 d	Ireland	11 d	Mexico	$ 1.50	Poland	Zl. 0.50	Thailand	B 3.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—	Cuba	P 0.13	Germany	DM 1.—	Israel	I £ 0.40	Morocco	DM —.65	Portugal	Esc. 1.—	Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Australia	10 c.	Cyprus	11 d	Ghana	cedi 0.12	Italy	Lir. 80	Mozambique	Esc. 1.—	Rhodesia	11 d	Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Austria	S 3.—	Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50	Great Britain	11 d	Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Nepal	Mohur 1.—	Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—	Turkey	T £ 1.25
Belgium	bfr 6.—	Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Greece	Dr 4.—	Jamaica	11 d	Netherlands	Hfl 0.50	Rumania	Leu 0.50	Tunisia	65 M
Bolivia	$ b 1.50	Denmark	dkr 0.90	Guatemala	Q 0.15	Japan	Yen 50	Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25	Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60	Uganda	EAs 0.25
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35	Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15	Guayana	BWI $ 0.20	Jordan	50 fils	New Zealand	9 c.	Sweden	skr 0.60	UAR	PT 5.—
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05	Ecuador	S 2.50	Guinea	F.G. 30.—	Kenya	EAs 0.25	Nicaragua	C 0.85	Switzerland	FS 0.50	Uruguay	P 20.—
Burma	K 0.60	El Salvador	C 0.30	Haiti	G 0.65	Kuwait	50 fils	Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—	USA	$ 0.20
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—	Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30	Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20	Laos	Kip 60.—	Nigeria	11 d	Sierra Leone	Le 0.10	USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Cambodia	R 4.40	Fiji	11 d	Honduras	L 0.25	Lebanon	P 40.—	Norway	nkr 0.90	Somalia	Sh So 0.90	Venezuela	B 0.60
Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Finland	fmk 0.50	Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70	Liberia	Lib $ 0.15	Pakistan	Rs 0.60	South Africa	Rand 0.10	Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20			Hungary	Ft. 1.—	Libya	50 Mills	Panama	B. 0.15	South Korea	Won 35.—	Zambia	11 d
Ceylon	cR —.60			Iceland	Kr 5.—	Luxembourg	lfr 6			S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—		
Chile	Esc. 0.60			India	Rs 0.80	Madagascar	FM 30.—			Spain	Pts 8.—		